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Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS)

Note by the Secretary-General

The Secretary-General has the honour to transmit to the Economic and Social Council the report of the Executive Director of the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), prepared pursuant to Council resolution 2009/6.

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Report of the Executive Director of the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS)

Summary

The present report was prepared in response to Economic and Social Council resolution 2009/6, in which the Council requested the Secretary-General to transmit at its substantive session in 2011 a report prepared by the Executive Director of the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), in collaboration with its co-sponsors and other relevant organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, on progress made in implementing a coordinated response of the United Nations system to the HIV/AIDS pandemic.

Historic gains have been achieved in the response to HIV. Globally, the number of adults newly infected with HIV has declined by nearly 20 per cent since 1999, AIDS deaths have fallen by 19 per cent in only five years, and the number of children newly infected with HIV was 24 per cent lower in 2009 than in 2004. The number of people receiving antiretroviral treatment continues to increase, rejuvenating households, communities and entire societies. Important research breakthroughs occurred in 2010, with clinical trials demonstrating the partial efficacy of a vaginal microbicide and pre-exposure antiretroviral prophylaxis, effectively expanding the toolkit of effective interventions to prevent new infections. Efforts have been made to increase the number of circumcised adult males, although faster progress is urgently needed to bring this highly effective intervention to scale to help reduce sexual transmission. Although stigma, discrimination and social marginalization continue to impede effective responses, some promising trends are evident, with the percentage of countries reporting the existence of laws and regulations protecting people living with HIV from discrimination increasing from 56 per cent in 2006 to 71 per cent in 2010.

These gains, while heartening, are fragile since the global financial and economic downturn has caused HIV financing to flatten. Although HIV incidence has declined globally, new infections are on the rise in several parts of the world, including in Eastern Europe, Central Asia, the Middle East, North Africa and some high-income countries.

Following the release of the final report of the second independent evaluation of UNAIDS in 2009, the Joint Programme undertook concerted steps to implement the recommendations of the evaluation, with particular focus on actions to enhance the coherence, coordination, efficiency and effectiveness of UNAIDS support to HIV responses. A new UNAIDS vision was formulated, envisaging zero new infections, zero AIDS-related deaths and zero discrimination. UNAIDS developed a new strategy for 2011-2015 reflecting this new vision, and providing for focused actions to accelerate progress under each pillar of the new UNAIDS vision. Work began on the development of a new UNAIDS unified budget, results and accountability framework, to become effective in January 2012.

Since its last report to the Council (E/2009/70), the Joint Programme has focused on achieving concrete results in 10 priority areas and across six cross-cutting strategies as set out in *Joint Action for Results: UNAIDS Outcome Framework 2009-2011*. These priority areas represent key themes where accelerated progress is needed

to achieve the global aim of universal access to HIV prevention, treatment, care and support. Business cases and unified advocacy strategies have been developed for priority areas, and workplans have been aligned to generate synergistic efforts by UNAIDS to expedite progress in each area.

The present report summarizes the Joint Programme's accomplishments over the past two years in implementing a coordinated response, with results reported for each priority area and cross-cutting strategy in the Outcome Framework. It also summarizes the Joint Programme's collective achievements, the contributions by individual co-sponsors and the UNAIDS secretariat and the challenges confronted.

In conclusion, the report offers a series of recommendations. The Economic and Social Council is invited to review the report and its recommendations.

I. Update on the epidemic

1. HIV remains one of the world's most pressing health and development challenges. In 2009, the latest year for which comprehensive epidemiological data are available, an estimated 33.3 million people were living with HIV — a 27 per cent increase over 1999. An estimated 2.6 million people were newly infected, including 370,000 children, and 1.8 million people died of HIV-related causes. The number of children orphaned by AIDS rose to 16.6 million in 2009, compared to 14.6 million in 2005.

2. Although these figures underline the continuing gravity of the epidemic, there is significant news to report. The number of new HIV infections in 2009 was nearly 20 per cent lower than in 1999, with HIV incidence declining at least 25 per cent over the last decade in at least 33 countries. With more than 6 million people receiving antiretroviral therapy as at December 2010, the rate of AIDS deaths is also falling, with the number of deaths in 2009 19 per cent lower than in 2004.

3. These gains, however, are fragile. Total funding for HIV programmes in low- and middle-income countries remained flat in 2009, with international financing declining in 2009 for the first time.

A. Regional variations

4. Sub-Saharan Africa remains most heavily affected by HIV, accounting for 68 per cent of all people living with HIV, 69 per cent of all new HIV infections and 72 per cent of AIDS deaths. The epidemic has sharply lowered life expectancy in many African countries, placed enormous burdens on health and social service systems and presented a historic challenge to the region.

5. The Caribbean is the region with the second highest HIV prevalence, and nearly 5 million people are living with HIV in Asian countries. Although HIV incidence has declined globally, the rate of new infections is increasing in Eastern Europe, Central Asia, the Middle East and North Africa, as well as in some high-income countries.

B. HIV and women

6. Globally, women represent a slight majority of people living with HIV. In sub-Saharan Africa, women account for 60 per cent or more of all people living with HIV. Risks are especially pronounced for young women and girls. In South Africa, young women ages 15 to 24 are three to four times more likely to be living with HIV than males the same age. These imbalances reflect not only the heightened physical vulnerability of girls and young women, but also a high prevalence of intergenerational partnerships, the lack of women-initiated prevention methods, the need for expanded access to educational opportunities for girls and women, which has proven to reduce their risk and vulnerability to HIV, and broader social and legal inequalities that impede the ability of young women to reduce their risk. In some countries, the prevalence of gender-based violence exceeds 50 per cent, with studies consistently linking women's experience of violence with a heightened risk of HIV infection. In such contexts, women and girls affected by humanitarian emergencies are at higher risk of being used as a weapon of war and of being sexually exploited

and consequently at risk of contracting HIV infection. This situation is further worsened by the impact of HIV and tuberculosis on household food and nutrition security and the depletion of household resources. This is particularly true for the most vulnerable, including pregnant and lactating women and children living with or affected by HIV.

C. Children, young people and HIV

7. Between 2004 and 2009, new paediatric infections declined by 24 per cent. Despite this progress, only 28 per cent of children under 15 in need of antiretroviral therapy received it in 2009. In addition, children affected by AIDS continue to face significant challenges. In 2010, 17.5 million children under 18 years of age had lost one or both parents to AIDS, representing 11 per cent of the global number of orphans. Ninety per cent of these children are in sub-Saharan Africa.

8. Nearly 23 per cent of people living with HIV worldwide are under the age of 24. In addition to the hundreds of thousands of newborns infected annually as a result of vertical transmission, many sexually active young people are vulnerable to HIV, with those between the ages of 15 and 24 accounting for 35 per cent of all new HIV infections in 2009. Although these figures underline young people's continuing vulnerability to HIV, important progress has been made in protecting them. As a result of steady progress in expanding programmes to prevent vertical transmission, the number of new infections among children fell by 24 per cent between 2004 and 2009. In 10 high-prevalence countries, HIV prevalence among young people has declined by at least 25 per cent since 2001. Although patterns vary within and among countries, available survey evidence indicates that more young people are delaying sexual debut and more of those who are sexually active are using condoms. Challenges remain, however, as only 34 per cent of young people worldwide exhibit accurate and comprehensive knowledge about HIV, well short of the 95 per cent target set forth in the 2001 Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS.

D. Expanding knowledge base on HIV

9. Recent gains in the HIV response are driven in part by improved evidence regarding epidemiological trends, the emergence of new prevention and treatment tools, an expanding knowledge base on optimal uses of existing HIV strategies and improved sophistication in national strategic planning, programme implementation and monitoring and evaluation. In 2010, clinical trials provided evidence of the efficacy of a vaginal microbicide and of pre-exposure antiretroviral prophylaxis, and two studies in sub-Saharan Africa suggested that conditional cash transfers reduce young people's risk of HIV infection by alleviating economic and social vulnerability. Enhanced understanding of existing HIV interventions led to the revision in 2010 of international guidelines for antiretroviral therapy for HIV infection in adults and adolescents and antiretroviral drugs for treating pregnant women and preventing infection in infants, guiding countries in efforts to optimize the success of these critical tools. More than 15 countries have benefited from UNAIDS-supported studies on modes of transmission, which have provided critical strategic information to enable more accurate and timely focusing of scarce resources. In 2010, 182 countries reported data on progress in their HIV response; a summary of which is contained in the *UNAIDS Report on the Global AIDS Epidemic*

2010. For the first time, UNAIDS produced AIDS scorecards on key indicators of national progress, enabling countries to compare results.

II. Reporting back on UNAIDS key results

10. UNAIDS continues to be guided by internationally agreed development goals and accountability frameworks, including the time-bound targets set forth in the 2001 Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS; the goal of achieving universal access to HIV prevention, treatment, care and support by 2010, as enshrined in the 2006 Political Declaration on HIV/AIDS; and the aim of achieving the Millennium Development Goals by 2015. Since its last report to the Economic and Social Council in 2009 (E/2009/70), UNAIDS has undergone important changes with the objective of improving the coherence, coordination, effectiveness and efficiency of the joint efforts of its 10 co-sponsors and the secretariat.

11. In December 2009, the results of the second independent evaluation of UNAIDS were reported to the UNAIDS Programme Coordinating Board, which resulted in 28 Board decision points touching upon all aspects of the Joint Programme's operations. UNAIDS expeditiously began a process to implement the evaluation recommendations.

12. In 2010, the Programme Coordinating Board endorsed a new vision for UNAIDS, which calls for focused efforts to achieve "zero new infections, zero AIDS-related deaths and zero discrimination" and a new comprehensive strategy for 2011-2015, which outlines policy and programmatic approaches to advance progress in each of the three pillars of the UNAIDS vision. In accordance with the recommendations of the second independent evaluation, UNAIDS adopted a new division of labour clarifying the roles and responsibilities of the co-sponsors and the secretariat in different thematic areas of work. The biennial UNAIDS unified budget and workplan, which for the last decade has united the efforts of the co-sponsors and the secretariat in a single two-year plan, will be succeeded by the UNAIDS unified budget, results and accountability framework in January 2012; this is a simpler format designed to improve the accountability, transparency and efficiency of the Joint Programme's efforts to catalyse an effective response to HIV at the country, regional and global levels.

13. In 2009, the Joint Programme launched the UNAIDS Outcome Framework 2009-2011, which called for focused, results-oriented action by UNAIDS in 10 priority areas and across six cross-cutting approaches. The 2010-2011 unified budget and workplan was aligned to accelerate results in priority areas, for which business plans setting forth specific goals, strategies and activities in different thematic areas were developed. The Outcome Framework has united the entire Joint Programme in a common effort to improve strategic coherence and generate concrete results in key areas that are pivotal to future success in the HIV response.

14. In keeping with the Outcome Framework, the present report summarizes results in each of the 10 priority areas and the six cross-cutting strategies.

Priority areas

1. Reducing sexual transmission of HIV

15. With global incidence declining, there has been marked progress in efforts to prevent sexual transmission. Out of the 93 countries that reported data in 2010, 56 reported that less than 25 per cent of males had had more than one sex partner in the previous 12 months and 84 reported that less than 25 per cent of females had had more than one sex partner. In 2010, the secretariat and the World Health Organization (WHO) began working with countries to prepare for follow-up on and implementation of breakthrough research on microbicides and pre-exposure prophylaxis.

16. There is evidence that condom availability and regular condom use have increased in many countries. In 11 countries, at least 75 per cent of men and women reported in 2009 that they had used condoms during their last episode of higher-risk sex. In 2009, more than 50 million female condoms were distributed, including 36.2 million in sub-Saharan Africa, compared to 21.1 million in 2008. In 2010, the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) assisted 52 countries in the implementation of comprehensive procurement, supply management and distribution plans for condoms and other reproductive and sexual health commodities.

17. Although scale-up of adult male circumcision was slow in the immediate aftermath of the issuance by WHO and UNAIDS in 2007 of guidelines recommending the implementation of circumcision in 13 high-priority countries with high prevalence of HIV and low prevalence of male circumcision, recent gains have been reported, with an estimated 400,000 men circumcised in nine priority countries in 2010 alone. WHO and the secretariat have assisted all priority countries in undertaking situation analyses and developing implementation plans, with the secretariat also assisting in the conduct of costing analyses in three countries. WHO completed an early infant circumcision manual in 2010, issued guidance on the engagement of volunteers to support male circumcision scale-up, and advocated for male circumcision scale-up in multiple forums.

18. With untreated sexually transmitted infections increasing the risk of HIV transmission or acquisition by several orders of magnitude, UNAIDS assisted countries in implementing evidence-informed strategies for the prompt diagnosis, prevention and treatment of these infections. New normative guidance and technical assistance were produced, assisting at least 30 high-burden countries in achieving the 70 per cent target for diagnosis, treatment and counselling with respect to sexually transmitted infections at point of care. In many African countries, the incidence of these infections is on the decline.

19. UNAIDS convened a high-level commission on HIV prevention that issued a major call to action in 2010. The secretariat produced new guidance on planning, implementing and monitoring prevention programmes that combine behavioural, biomedical and structural interventions to achieve synergistic and long-lasting impacts. Under the leadership of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the new voluntary *International Technical Guidance on Sexuality Education* was published in 2009, in partnership with UNAIDS, UNFPA, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and WHO; follow-up support was provided to many countries in using the document to review

and strengthen their HIV prevention efforts in respect of young people. Following up a landmark global consultation convened in Tunisia in 2009, UNAIDS actively promoted the implementation of the "positive health, dignity and prevention strategy", which links focused primary prevention programmes by and for people living with HIV with intensified efforts to ensure universal access to antiretroviral treatment and meaningful human rights protection.

20. In addition, a new international labour standard on HIV and AIDS was adopted at the annual International Labour Conference on 17 June 2010. The HIV and AIDS Recommendation, 2010 (No. 200) calls for the development, adoption and effective implementation of national workplace policies on HIV and AIDS and the world of work, ensuring the full involvement of the actors in the world of work in achieving universal access to prevention, treatment, care and support measures for all to prevent sexual transmission.

2. Preventing mothers from dying and babies from becoming infected with HIV

21. From 2008 to 2009, the percentage of pregnant women living with HIV in low- and middle-income countries who received antiretroviral prophylaxis rose from 45 per cent to 53 per cent, surpassing 50 per cent for the first time. Despite these gains, in 2009, 370,000 children in low- and middle-income countries were newly infected with HIV during pregnancy, labour and delivery, and breastfeeding. HIV is also a leading cause of death among women of reproductive age globally. In 2010, world leaders committed to achieving the global elimination of mother-to-child transmission of HIV by 2015. In June 2010, United Nations agencies and key global partners committed to work towards the elimination of mother-to-child transmission by 2015.

22. UNAIDS delivered direct capacity-building support to 20 countries which collectively represent 85 per cent of the global burden of pregnant women living with HIV, to increase the success rates for prevention proposals to the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria. In 2010, UNICEF and UNFPA supported more than 40 countries in scaling up programmes to prevent vertical transmission. The World Food Programme (WFP) explored further integration of national programmes on the prevention of mother-to-child transmission into maternal neonatal child health services in eight countries. Furthermore, since such programmes and services are gradually integrated into an increasing number of countries, participation in them will not only help to prevent HIV transmission but will also contribute to broader maternal and infant health outcomes, allowing mothers and their infants to have access to vaccinations, micronutrient supplementation, nutrition assessment, education and counselling and complementary food when malnourished.

23. Drawing from accumulated evidence WHO issued revised guidelines on the prevention of vertical transmission in 2010. These new guidelines, which are rapidly being implemented by countries in all regions, call for earlier initiation of antiretroviral therapy in pregnant women, routine assessment of HIV-positive pregnant women for their own health, close integration between antenatal settings and HIV treatment programmes, and the use of antiretroviral prophylaxis to prevent transmission during breastfeeding. In addition, the revised guidelines emphasize the need for countries to replace single-dose nevirapine or short-course zidovudine with more effective longer-duration combination regimens. In 2009, 30 per cent of

recipients of prevention services in antenatal settings received a suboptimal single-dose antiretroviral regimen, highlighting the importance of improving access to more effective combination regimens.

24. Although a majority of HIV-positive women are now receiving antiretroviral prophylaxis for vertical transmission, most are not routinely screened for their own health. In 2010, UNAIDS produced guidance on community-based maternal and newborn health care, and support was provided for the "continuum of care" initiative to promote integrated programming for HIV and maternal and newborn health care.

3. Ensuring that people living with HIV receive treatment

25. The number of people in low- and middle-income countries receiving antiretroviral treatment increased by roughly 25 per cent in 2010, a sign that the momentum towards greater treatment access is continuing. As at December 2009, eight low- and middle-income countries had already achieved 80 per cent treatment coverage. In 2010, UNAIDS provided technical support to more than 60 countries to scale up HIV treatment programmes, including the development and adaptation of national treatment guidelines, the implementation of strategies to monitor and address adverse events, and strategic approaches to improve clinical management. Also in 2010, WFP provided food and nutrition support in antiretroviral treatment programmes in 37 countries, invested extra efforts in staff and partner training in food-by-prescription principles, developed materials and supplied equipment to enhance the use of anthropometric measures in clinic-based nutrition assessment. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), WHO and the World Bank assisted at least 64 countries in strengthening drug procurement and supply management systems. The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) continues to advocate for the inclusion of forcibly displaced populations in national HIV programmes to access care and treatment.

26. In 2010, WHO issued revised guidelines on antiretroviral therapy that recommend earlier initiation of therapy, using a CD4 threshold of 350 cells/mm3 to guide treatment initiation in place of the earlier cut-off of 200 CD4 cells/mm3.[1] The new guidelines also urge countries to phase out regimens that include the antiretroviral drug d4T and to opt instead for alternative regimens with fewer side effects. Countries have taken rapid steps to adopt and implement the new guidelines, which increase by roughly 50 per cent the total number of people eligible for treatment.

27. Ensuring equitable treatment access for all people living with HIV remained an urgent focus of effort for UNAIDS over the past two years. With children having suboptimal treatment coverage in comparison to adults (28 per cent versus 37 per cent), the Joint Programme prioritized steps to increase the availability of early infant diagnosis, including a multi-country review and identification of best practices by UNICEF. Out of the 21 countries reporting data on antiretroviral treatment utilization by people who inject drugs, 14 reach fewer than 5 per cent of

[1] The CD4 cell is a key component of the human immune system, and its depletion is a classic sign of HIV-related immune suppression. The CD4 count measures the number of CD4 cells in a cubic millilitre of blood, providing important diagnostic information to guide clinical decision-making.

such persons, underlining the need for additional efforts to promote treatment equity.

28. Prices for first-line antiretroviral regimens in low-income countries declined modestly in 2009 after sharply falling earlier this decade, with evidence indicating that fewer countries are using flexibilities under the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights and other international intellectual property frameworks to obtain optimal prices. In 2010, UNDP supported 17 countries in building capacity for the adoption of enabling trade and health policies and legislation to ensure favourable pricing for HIV commodities. Through its AIDS medicines and diagnostic services WHO provided strategic information to country decision makers on sources and prices of HIV medicines.

29. The secretariat and WHO have spearheaded the Joint Programme's efforts to catalyse the next phase of treatment, care and support. An analytic and advocacy initiative called "Treatment 2.0" was launched at the XVIII International AIDS Conference in Vienna, at which UNAIDS played a prominent role. This initiative prioritizes the use of simpler, longer-lasting first-line regimens; the development of simple, affordable point-of-care diagnostics; cost reductions for all major elements of treatment delivery; the decentralization and simplification of service delivery systems; and the mobilization of communities to support treatment scale-up.

30. Prompt diagnosis of HIV and swift referral to care for people who test HIV-positive are critical to improving medical outcomes. In 2009, the median number of HIV tests performed per 1,000 persons rose by 22 per cent, with comparable increases in the number of health facilities delivering HIV testing services. In 2010, UNICEF supported four high-prevalence African countries in implementing community testing initiatives; UNFPA assisted 27 countries in integrating and linking voluntary counselling and testing in maternal health and other related services; and WHO reviewed experiences with provider-initiated testing and counselling approaches to identify optimal models for widespread implementation.

4. Preventing people living with HIV from dying of tuberculosis

31. Tuberculosis remains a leading cause of death among people living with HIV. In 2009, an estimated 380,000 people living with HIV died of tuberculosis. Although there are still considerable gaps in the effective management of HIV/tuberculosis co-infection, progress has been achieved. The percentage of tuberculosis patients tested for HIV increased from 4 per cent in 2003 to 26 per cent in 2009, and 55 countries tested at least 75 per cent of tuberculosis patients for HIV. Thirty-seven per cent of people living with HIV who tested HIV-positive in 2009 received antiretroviral therapy. Only 5 per cent of people living with HIV were screened for tuberculosis in 2009 and only 0.2 per cent of people living with HIV received isoniazid preventive therapy. In response to the prevalence of HIV and tuberculosis among health workers, in November 2010, WHO, ILO and UNAIDS officially launched joint policy guidelines to improve the access of health workers to HIV and tuberculosis prevention, treatment, care and support services.

32. Since its 2009 report, UNAIDS has intensified efforts to increase access to essential services for people living with HIV/tuberculosis co-infection. WFP and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime supported more than 60 countries in scaling up HIV/tuberculosis programming. WHO collaborated with ILO on the finalization of policy guidelines for HIV/tuberculosis prevention, care and

treatment; ILO assisted 12 countries in 2010 in implementing HIV/tuberculosis workplace programmes; and WHO issued guidelines on isoniazid preventive therapy, infection control for tuberculosis, and intensified tuberculosis case-finding (the "Three 'I's").

5. Protecting drug users from becoming infected with HIV

33. Efforts to prevent drug users from becoming infected remain inadequate. According to data from 29 countries, in 2009, HIV prevention programmes reached 31.6 per cent of people who inject drugs. Neither needle and syringe programmes nor opioid agonist therapy were available in most countries reporting data in 2010, and fewer than 10 countries provide comprehensive HIV prevention services in prisons.

34. With the aim of building greater support for robust evidence-based programming for people who inject drugs and to improve service access, in 2010, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime assisted over 50 countries in strengthening related programming and policy efforts. With support from the Joint Programme, several countries in Asia took steps to permit the introduction of evidence-informed components of harm reduction programming for people who inject drugs. Evidence-based tools, guidelines and best practices for people who inject drugs, live in prison settings or are vulnerable to human trafficking were produced, and countries were assisted in the establishment of service targets for these groups. Work began on the development of policy guidance for the diagnosis and treatment of viral hepatitis among people who inject drugs.

6. Empowering men who have sex with men, sex workers, people who use drugs and transgender people to protect themselves from HIV infection and to fully access antiretroviral therapy

35. Support for programming for key populations remains insufficient. In 2010, programmes for key populations accounted for 22 per cent of HIV spending in low-level epidemics, 9 per cent in concentrated epidemics and 2 per cent in generalized epidemics. These percentages represent an increase over 2008 for low-level and generalized epidemics of 19.4 per cent and 0.6 per cent, respectively, but a reduction of 9.8 per cent was reported by countries with concentrated epidemics. The low priority for focused programming for key populations in low-level and concentrated epidemics is especially troubling, as epidemics in these settings are primarily characterized by transmission within these groups. The very low figure reported in generalized epidemics is also disturbing, since recent modes-of-transmission studies have determined that key populations account for between one quarter and one third of new infections in some countries in which HIV is generalized.

36. With the aim of reversing the continuous under-prioritization of responses for key populations, UNAIDS has intensified its work to build strong support for evidence-informed, rights-based policies and programmes for those most at risk. Major regional and global consultations on HIV among men who have sex with men convened by UNDP, WHO and the secretariat have called attention to the worldwide epidemic in this population. UNFPA and other partners facilitated the first-ever regional consultation on HIV and sex work in Asia and the Pacific, bringing together Governments and female, male and transgender sex workers to develop

common policy and programmatic approaches. Similarly, UNFPA and partners organized a groundbreaking consultation in the Caribbean.

37. In 2010, UNDP and UNFPA delivered technical support to 67 countries in enhancing human rights protection and service access for these key populations and implementing policy guidance to address their vulnerabilities. UNESCO published peer education outreach guidance on working with men who have sex with men in the Asia-Pacific region. Technical support was delivered to 67 countries in 2010 to improve results for key populations. The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, WHO, UNAIDS, the Global Fund and the Asian Network of People who Use Drugs supported the finalization of a regional strategy for harm reduction in Asia and the Pacific for the period 2010-2015. The strategy was jointly developed by all key stakeholders under the auspices of the United Nations Regional Task Force on Injecting Drug Use and HIV/AIDS for Asia and the Pacific. WHO and the secretariat also provided technical support to countries to estimate the size of key populations, a critical step in the development of focused, results-oriented strategies to address their HIV-related needs.

7. Removing punitive laws, policies, practices, stigma and discrimination that block effective responses to AIDS

38. Stigma, discrimination and social marginalization continue to impede effective HIV responses. In 2011, 48 countries, territories and entities imposed some form of restriction on the entry, stay and residence of people living with HIV; a large number of countries criminalize HIV transmission or exposure, including more than 20 countries in sub-Saharan Africa that have implemented such measures in recent years; 116 countries criminalize some aspect of sex work; 79 countries and territories worldwide criminalize same-sex sexual relations; and 32 countries have laws that provide for the death penalty for certain drug-related offences.

39. However, there are some promising trends in this priority area. The number of countries reporting the existence of laws and regulations protecting people living with HIV from discrimination increased from 87 in 2008 to 124 in 2010, with the percentage of countries having such laws increasing from 56 per cent in 2006 to 71 per cent in 2010. In 2010, China, Namibia, Ukraine and the United States of America repealed their respective HIV-based travel restrictions, and two other countries (Ecuador and India) issued clarifications that such restrictions are no longer in place. More countries are now recognizing the existence of punitive laws that block effective responses, with the number of countries reporting such laws rising from roughly 41 per cent in 2006 to 67 per cent in 2010. The percentage of countries reporting the existence of anti-stigma efforts increased from 39 per cent in 2006 to 90 per cent in 2010, although only a minority of countries have budgets in place for anti-stigma activities.

40. On behalf of the UNAIDS family, UNDP launched the Global Commission on HIV and the Law, in 2010, bringing together world-renowned leaders from all walks of life and regions to address the need for legal reform to create an enabling environment for strong HIV responses. UNAIDS supported the review, revision and implementation of legislation to promote HIV-related rights and increase access to justice services in more than 60 countries and successfully advocated for legal and policy reforms. In more than 40 countries, UNAIDS provided financial support, training or other capacity-building exercises, assisted in the development of

sensitization initiatives, and provided normative guidance to promote efforts to reduce stigma and discrimination.

8. Meeting the HIV needs of women and girls and stopping sexual and gender-based violence

41. The number of countries reporting policies in place to ensure equal access among women and men to prevention, treatment and support services increased from 111 in 2008 to 144 in 2010. Globally, HIV treatment coverage in 2009 was higher for women than for men. Eighty percent of national HIV strategies specifically address the needs of women and girls, although only 46 per cent budget for such activities.

42. As at December 2010, more than 60 countries had initiated implementation of the new UNAIDS Agenda for Accelerated Country Action on Women, Girls, Gender Equality and HIV. More than 400 civil society organizations, including women's groups, engaged in this global effort.

43. In 2010, UNAIDS provided focused advocacy and technical support in more than 40 countries to promote gender equality in the context of HIV. A framework for integrating gender in national monitoring and evaluation systems was generated, and guidance was provided on the creation of gender indicators for national responses. The Global Coalition on Women and AIDS remained active, agreeing on funding criteria for new projects and undertaking focused work to strengthen networks of women living with HIV. UNAIDS issued guidance on the prevention of intimate partner and gender-based violence, drawing on emerging evidence of effective interventions. UNFPA documented good practices on engaging men and boys in the promotion of gender equity, specifically with respect to sexual and reproductive health and HIV prevention, treatment, care and support, and widely disseminated findings to programme planners, health providers, peer educators and advocates.

9. Empowering young people to protect themselves from HIV

44. Young people are leading a prevention revolution, with HIV prevalence declining among young people in the most heavily affected countries. In 2010, UNAIDS provided technical support for HIV policies and programmes affecting young people in more than 60 countries.

45. UNESCO supported education ministries and other partners in numerous countries to strengthen HIV programming for young people, including through comprehensive HIV and sexuality education and the UNAIDS Global Initiative on Education and HIV and AIDS (EDUCAIDS), with activities now reported in more than 80 countries. UNHCR provided youth-oriented programme support to young people in humanitarian settings in 55 countries. Taking into account the diversity of young people, UNFPA focused particular efforts on strengthening HIV prevention efforts for most-at-risk young people, including those engaged in sex work, men who have sex with men, and young people who use drugs. UNICEF supported a national consultation for sex providers and young people living with HIV in Uganda, and programme capacity was expanded for 2,300 programme managers and service providers in youth-friendly health centres in Eastern Europe and Central Asia.

10. Enhancing social protection for people affected by HIV

46. UNAIDS intensified efforts to strengthen social protection initiatives for people living with HIV. Studies consistently find that HIV infection increases financial pressures on affected households and deepens poverty. Poverty, and food insecurity in particular, constitute significant barriers to treatment uptake and adherence. HIV is also associated with considerable caregiving responsibilities that are not adequately compensated, with a six-country study in sub-Saharan Africa finding that volunteer caregivers performed an average of 69 hours of free work each month. ILO assessed social security and national health insurance schemes for ways to extend coverage for populations vulnerable to HIV and persons affected by HIV, in order to prevent deepening poverty.

47. With UNAIDS support, at least 20 countries either implemented cash transfer programmes or were studying their implementation to mitigate the epidemic's impact on children orphaned or made vulnerable by HIV. WFP implemented such cash or voucher programmes in a total of 14 countries. With the leadership of ILO, at least 32 countries received UNAIDS support in 2010 to strengthen workplace HIV prevention, treatment, care and support assistance. HIV has been integrated into all UNHCR humanitarian operations worldwide and, in 2010, at least 74 countries received HIV-related assistance.

Cross-cutting strategies

1. Bringing AIDS planning and action into national development policy and broader accountability frameworks

48. During the past two years, UNAIDS led efforts to link the HIV response to other social movements and to broader health and development efforts. The UNAIDS initiative "AIDS plus MDGs" seeks to leverage progress in the HIV response to accelerate advances towards achieving all the Goals and conversely to capitalize on development gains to strengthen the impact and sustainability of HIV programmes. This initiative was highlighted in the report of the Secretary-General on progress made in the implementation of the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS and the Political Declaration on HIV/AIDS (A/64/735), which focused on the integral linkages between HIV programmes and broader development efforts. At the High-level Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals in September 2010, UNAIDS organized a high-profile session with the Governments of China, Ethiopia, Nigeria and South Africa, to further galvanize the attention of world leaders to the initiative. The close linkages between the HIV response and other Goals were also recognized in the outcome document of the meeting (resolution 65/1), calling for a synergetic approach and integrated service delivery.

49. UNAIDS worked with the H4+ agencies (UNICEF, WHO, UNFPA, the World Bank and UNAIDS) to support the Secretary-General's Global Strategy for Women's and Children's Health, the first blueprint of its kind to help intensify and better coordinate existing efforts, build new commitments and establish an accountability framework for delivering results across the health-related Goals. The Global Strategy is a momentous opportunity through which women's and children's health can obtain the highest level of visibility and support. It was developed and endorsed by a wide range of actors, including Governments, international

organizations, philanthropic institutions, civil society, the business community, health workers, professional associations and academic and research institutions, and welcomed by all 192 Member States.

50. In 2010, UNAIDS supported more than 50 countries in integrating HIV into poverty reduction strategy papers and other mainstream development planning instruments. Assistance was provided to 57 countries to integrate HIV into decent work country programmes.

2. Optimizing United Nations support for applications to and programme implementation of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria

51. The Global Fund and UNAIDS took steps to further strengthen their partnership, with UNAIDS providing robust support for efforts by the Global Fund to mobilize resources for implementing future funding rounds. In 2010, UNAIDS supported 68 country and regional applicants to develop proposals for Round 10 of the Global Fund. Fifteen countries were selected to receive additional and prioritized support based on their disease burden, income level and success with previous Global Fund applications. Sixty-nine per cent of these countries were successful compared to the overall success rate of 41 per cent. UNAIDS support to Round 10 contributed to the mobilization of $732 million in HIV-related funding.

52. UNAIDS also worked to strengthen processes to plan and implement Global Fund grants. In 2010, UNDP acted as a Global Fund principal recipient in a total of 29 countries that faced unusually difficult circumstances, with programme delivery reaching $400 million. Support was provided to 15 countries to strengthen country coordinating mechanisms for the Global Fund, with 1,363 days of technical support provided in such areas as country coordinating mechanism dashboard implementation, conflict-of-interest policies and orientation for new country coordinating mechanism members. The AIDS Strategy and Action Plan service, housed at the World Bank, continues to provide technical advice and guidance to strengthen national strategies, which provide the broad directions and targets on which successful Global Fund proposals are based. In 2010, the World Bank sponsored a week-long capacity-building programme to accelerate the translation of national strategies into expedited programme implementation in Eastern and Southern Africa. Also in 2010, at least 32 countries received intensive UNAIDS technical support for the implementation of programmes approved for funding by the Global Fund.

3. Improving country-by-country strategic information generation, analysis and use, including through the mobilization of novel sources

53. The evidence base for country-level action on HIV continues to expand. In 2010, 182 countries reported data on standardized HIV indicators to UNAIDS, with many receiving focused assistance from the secretariat and other United Nations partners. Forty-three out of 46 countries in sub-Saharan Africa reported 2010 coverage data to WHO. In 2010, countries undertook universal access reviews to assess progress against national targets, identify challenges and bottlenecks, and agree on strategies for moving forward. Normative documents regarding second-generation HIV surveillance, mortality and paediatric HIV surveillance, ethical conduct of HIV surveillance and the use of HIV incidence assays.

54. Modes-of-transmission studies in more than 20 countries assisted policymakers in aligning national programmes with documented needs. These studies compare programmatic and funding priorities with the geographic and population distribution of incident infections, enabling countries to identify and address gaps and mismatches between actual needs and available resources. In 2010, UNAIDS assisted countries in using the Spectrum model, which generates country-specific estimates for HIV prevalence and incidence, AIDS deaths and service needs for HIV.

55. Out of 134 countries submitting reports to UNAIDS on the standardized questionnaire for the National Composite Policy Index in 2010, 118 reported having an HIV monitoring and evaluation framework. The secretariat produced guidelines to support country-owned and country-led monitoring and evaluation assessments.

4. Assessing and realigning the management of technical assistance programmes

56. UNAIDS remains an important source of technical support and guidance to countries. In 2010, technical support facilities in five regions provided 14,700 days of technical assistance in 67 countries. United Nations partners completed an additional five national technical support plans in 2010, adding to the 11 that were in place as at December 2009.

57. A new division of labour for the provision of technical support, an important outcome of the second independent evaluation of UNAIDS, aims to clarify the roles and responsibilities of individual co-sponsors and the secretariat partners with respect to the provision of United Nations technical support. The revised division of labour also employs greater flexibility and encourages the adaptation of the agreed global apportionment of roles and responsibilities at the country and regional levels, depending on United Nations system capacity and actual needs. This approach relies on UNAIDS co-sponsors to work in particular technical areas and on the secretariat to play a coordinating and catalytic role.

5. Developing shared messages for sustained political commitment, leadership development and advocacy

58. The second independent evaluation confirmed the effectiveness, impact and visibility of UNAIDS advocacy. During the past two years, the Joint Programme continued and strengthened its advocacy for sustained political commitment and leadership in the AIDS response. The new UNAIDS vision was embraced by various partners and stakeholders and provided a framework for stronger advocacy efforts. The UNAIDS strategy for 2011-2015 emphasizes shared messages on key actions and strategies needed to achieve the agreed vision.

59. UNAIDS had a vigorous and high-profile presence at major global and regional meetings, including the Community of Portuguese-Speaking Countries, the International Organization of la Francophonie and the African Union. The momentum generated among African leaders led the African Union to adopt bold decisions on maternal, infant and child health and on the elimination of mother-to-child transmission of HIV. In addition, the African Union decided to extend the 2006 Abuja call for accelerated action towards universal access to HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria services in Africa to 2015, to coincide with the Millennium Development Goal target date. With UNAIDS support, HIV was prominently featured in the agendas of the Global Fund Board, the International Drug Purchase

Facility (UNITAID) and the Stop TB Partnership, as well as WFP and other UNAIDS co-sponsors. In 2010, the secretariat produced, coordinated or facilitated 15 key reports, 63 press releases and 100 issue briefs.

60. At the 2009 Parliament of the World's Religions, the Joint Programme launched a new strategic framework for partnership with faith-based organizations in its response to HIV. The goal of the framework is to encourage stronger partnerships between UNAIDS and faith-based organizations in order to achieve the goals of universal access. The framework is intended to provide a structure for the development of ongoing workplans and partnerships in response to AIDS by the UNAIDS Secretariat, co-sponsors and faith-based organizations. In partnership with the Ecumenical Advocacy Alliance, Cordaid and the International Network of Religious Leaders Living with and Affected by HIV, UNAIDS hosted a summit of high-level religious leaders on the response to HIV in the Netherlands in March 2010. The meeting explored opportunities for religious leaders to promote universal access to HIV prevention, treatment, care and support in their communities and speak out against stigma and discrimination affecting people living with HIV. It brought together some 40 Bahá'í, Buddhist, Christian, Hindu, Jewish, Muslim and Sikh leaders, the AIDS Ambassadors of the Netherlands and Sweden, leaders and representatives of networks of people living with HIV and other organizations active in the response to HIV.

61. UNESCO engaged with ministers of education in South-East Asia, Southern Africa, Eastern Europe and Central Asia. Ministers of Finance from the Southern African Development Community were engaged by the World Bank to build support for increased fiscal space for HIV-related domestic financing. With ILO support, an additional 14 countries adopted tripartite declarations on HIV and the world of work.

62. The Joint Programme worked to position the UNAIDS Programme Coordinating Board as a central policymaking body in the HIV response. In 2010, thematic sessions were held on linkages between HIV and sexual and reproductive health and on the role of food and nutrition.

6. Broadening and strengthening engagement with communities, civil society and networks of people living with HIV at all levels of the response

63. The UNAIDS strategy for 2011-2015 prioritizes robust, strategic partnerships that focus on enabling nationally owned responses, foster South-South cooperation and move beyond traditional health sectors to broader development areas, in keeping with the very essence of UNAIDS, which itself is a pioneering partnership of 10 United Nations co-sponsors and the secretariat. In 2010, 96 per cent of countries reported that their national HIV strategy explicitly addressed the involvement of people living with HIV, up from 75 per cent in 2006. In 2010, UNAIDS strengthened its support for global and regional networks of people living with HIV, and UNDP supported local and national groups of people living with HIV in 48 countries.

64. UN Cares is an inter-agency programme designed to reduce the negative impact of HIV on the United Nations workplace by educating staff and families about HIV and provide support for staff living with HIV. In 2010, UN Cares received a special commendation at the UN 21 Awards, which were established as part of the reform effort in 1996 to recognize staff members' innovation, efficiency

and excellence in the delivery of the Organization's programmes and services. Commendations are given for excellence and/or outstanding inter-agency coordination.

65. UNAIDS continued its work in Chief Executive Board-related bodies, helping to raise its profile and share its experience in shaping United Nations reforms, in such areas as the harmonization of business practices.

66. Following up on the overarching partnership framework provided by the 2011-2015 strategy, UNAIDS began consultations to develop focused strategies on working in partnership with key constituencies, including civil society. The secretariat mobilized resources to enable civil society representatives to attend the 2010 International AIDS Conference in Vienna. A communications facility continues to provide strengthened support to non-governmental delegates to the UNAIDS Programme Coordinating Board.

67. UNAIDS also supported the roll out of the People Living with AIDS Stigma Index at the country level in more than 30 countries. Technical support facilities provided 3,481 days of technical support to civil society organizations in 2010. In collaboration with the regional technical support hubs of the International HIV/AIDS Alliance[2] and the Civil Society Action Team,[3] a community systems strengthening framework was developed to strengthen community-based activities aimed at improving health, with particular focus on the implementation of Global Fund grants.

68. In preparation for the high-level meeting on AIDS to be held in June 2011, the President of the General Assembly convened, with secretariat support, a civil society task force to ensure strong involvement. The task force undertook extensive outreach to global, regional and national networks to facilitate a strong civil society presence at the meeting. In April 2011, more than 400 attendees participated in an all-day civil society hearing at the General Assembly, addressing such issues as enhancing community-level access to HIV funding and services, a new generation of national partnerships, and linking HIV with other global movements. The hearing resulted in findings and recommendations to be considered by Member States as they negotiate an outcome document for the high-level meeting.

III. Recommendations and proposed actions for the Economic and Social Council

The Economic and Social Council may wish to consider the following actions:

(a) **Commend the support provided by the Joint Programme to progress achieved towards universal access to HIV prevention, treatment, care and support, including its assistance to countries in reporting on the progress to the General Assembly, resulting in a record 182 country reports and the most comprehensive overview to date of the response at the country level;**

[2] See www.aidsalliance.org/Pagedetails.aspx?id=265.

[3] See www.csactionteam.org.

(b) Acknowledge the steady expansion of evidence regarding epidemiological trends and effective strategies for prevention, treatment, care and support, and urge continued investments in research efforts to build the knowledge base on HIV and accelerated actions to bring evidence-informed strategies to scale;

(c) Acknowledge the close links between HIV and other global health and development goals, underlining the need to integrate HIV in other global movements and development initiatives at the level of strategic planning, service delivery and monitoring and evaluation;

(d) Acknowledge the significant gains made in bringing critical HIV interventions to scale as well as the continued relevance and urgency of the goal of universal access to HIV prevention, treatment, care and support in reversing the epidemic, and the need to address stigma, discrimination, gender inequality and other legal or social factors that undermine universal access;

(e) Acknowledge the critical importance of key populations in all aspects of national HIV responses, global advocacy efforts and the work of the United Nations system on HIV, and encourage increased support to civil society capacity for programme implementation and advocacy;

(f) Welcome the new UNAIDS vision of zero new infections, zero AIDS-related deaths and zero discrimination referred to in the UNAIDS Strategy for 2011-2015, and encourage intensified advocacy and alignment of such key functions as advocacy, normative guidance, strategic information and technical support, to accelerate progress under each of these strategic pillars;

(g) Express concerns regarding the recent flattening of global financial support for HIV and encourage all stakeholders, including international donors, affected countries, countries with emerging economies, private corporations and high net worth individuals, to commit to ensuring a well-financed, optimally efficient, sustainable response to HIV;

(h) Note the implementation by UNAIDS of the recommendations from the second independent evaluation of the Joint Programme and encourage continued efforts by UNAIDS to enhance the coherence, coordination, efficiency and effectiveness of the Joint Programme's contributions to the response.

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Integrated analysis of United Nations system support to small island developing States

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

The Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (the Barbados Programme of Action) and the Mauritius Strategy of Implementation for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States have both underscored the importance of the support of the United Nations system to advance efforts towards sustainable development in small island developing States. Over the years, the way in which this support has been extended has varied among the various United Nations entities. On the whole, the organizations of the United Nations system have provided a wide range of targeted support for small island developing States in relation to the Mauritius Strategy, in accordance with their respective mandates. There are, however, gaps and room for improvement in the provision of this support, including in the delivery of coordinated and coherent programmes for the implementation of the Mauritius Strategy; concerted actions to strategically address critical areas of priority for small island developing States would enhance the effectiveness of the efforts made by the United Nations system to help advance progress in its implementation. Collectively, relevant United Nations agencies are also committed to provide normative, analytical and capacity-building support to small island developing States to enhance international recognition of their special case and to help strengthen their resilience against multiple challenges.

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I. Introduction

1. The unique sustainable development challenges facing small island developing States were first formally recognized by the international community when it articulated their special case in chapter 17 of Agenda 21[1] adopted in 1992. The Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States[2] (the Barbados Programme of Action), adopted two years later, recognizes the important role of all relevant organs, programmes and organizations of the United Nations system, within their respective areas of expertise and mandates, in supporting and supplementing national efforts in the implementation of that Programme of Action. Moreover, in paragraph 101 of the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (the Mauritius Strategy),[3] adopted in 2005, the Secretary-General was requested to fully mobilize and coordinate the agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system, including at the level of the regional commissions, within their respective mandates, and to further mainstream small island developing States issues to facilitate coordinated implementation of the follow-up to the Barbados Programme of Action at the national, regional, subregional and global levels.

2. Since the adoption of the Mauritius Strategy, the need to review and enhance the effectiveness, coherence and coordination of United Nations system support for small island developing States has been called for by the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council in various resolutions. In the same year as the high-level five-year review of the implementation of the Mauritius Strategy (September 2010), the Economic and Social Council, in resolution 2010/34, requested the Secretary-General to submit to it at its present session recommendations on how such support could be more targeted, cost-efficient, measurable and effective. Further, the General Assembly, in resolution 65/2, called upon the Secretary-General to conduct a comprehensive review and examine ways to enhance the coherence and coordination of United Nations support for those States and to report to it at its sixty-sixth session, putting forward concrete recommendations to Member States in that regard.

3. The objective of the present report is to review the progress made by the United Nations system in mainstreaming and integrating the Barbados Programme of Action and the Mauritius Strategy into its mandates, programmes and processes, with a view to promoting the coherence and coordination of United Nations support to small island developing States. The report also, as requested by the Economic and Social Council, formulates recommendations on how such support can be more targeted, efficient and effective.

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[1] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigenda), vol. I: resolutions adopted by the Conference, resolution 1, annex II.

[2] *Report of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, Bridgetown, Barbados, 25 April-6 May 1994* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.94.i.18 and corrigenda), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

[3] *Report of the International Meeting to Review the Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, Port Louis, Mauritius, 10-14 January 2005* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.05.II.A.4 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

4. The report takes into account information gathered from a variety of sources, including the websites, reports and publications of United Nations organizations, documentation prepared by the Small Island Developing States Unit of the Division of Sustainable Development, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, United Nations Secretariat, for the consideration of the Committee for Development Policy at its twelfth session, input provided by members of the inter-agency consultative group on small island developing States, commissioned papers surveying some of the issues covered in the present report, and direct input and views of Member States.

5. Section II of the report reviews how United Nations entities have mainstreamed support for the implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action and the Mauritius Strategy into their respective organizational structures, how issues relevant to small island developing States are dealt with at the global, regional and country levels, how support is provided to small island developing States through four main domains, namely, the normative, capacity-building, analytical and coordinating work of the United Nations system. A number of recommendations are contained in section III.

6. The report of the Secretary-General on the follow-up to and implementation of the Mauritius Strategy, to be submitted to the General Assembly at its sixty-sixth session in response to paragraph 12 of its resolution 65/156, will reflect any feedback on the present report and the relevant discussions at the Council's substantive session of 2011.

II. Analysis of the support provided by the United Nations system to small island developing States

7. This present section focuses on the mandates of relevant United Nations entities, with reference to institutional aspects, programmes and projects.

A. Mandates

8. At the global level, the Small Island Developing States Unit at United Nations Headquarters has been entrusted with a broad range of functions to support the implementation of the Mauritius Strategy (see General Assembly resolution 60/194). The Unit provides technical assistance and advice, supports intergovernmental processes, leads inter-agency coordination, and reports on progress made in the implementation of the Mauritius Strategy. The Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States is mandated to undertake advocacy work in support of small island developing States, in partnership with the relevant entities of the United Nations, and to mobilize resources for the implementation of the Mauritius Strategy.

9. At the regional level, the Mauritius Strategy entrusts the regional commissions with responsibility for advocacy and the coordination of support to small island developing States. The regional commissions have a comparative advantage in facilitating coordination and collaboration in regard to the implementation of the Mauritius Strategy at the regional level. Two regional commissions have subregional offices that facilitate coordination: the Pacific Operations Centre of the Economic

and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) and the Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC).

10. While the respective mandates of the United Nations system of organizations relate to specific programme areas of relevance to the Mauritius Strategy, together they cover much of its substance. The agencies, funds and programmes therefore play a major role in assisting small island developing States to implement the Mauritius Strategy in various programme areas. Among these organizations are the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP), the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), the World Health Organization (WHO) and the United Nations Population Fund.

11. The Convention on Biological Diversity, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification cover much of the Mauritius Strategy. The Conference of the Parties to each of these three conventions provides a global forum in which small island developing States can articulate their needs and priorities and leverage support from the United Nations system.

B. Institutional issues

Specific institutional set-up in support of small island developing States

12. Paragraph 128 of the Barbados Programme of Action invited the organizations and bodies of the United Nations system to consider the establishment of focal points for its implementation. The response to this call has been mixed.

13. Only 10 United Nations agencies have designated a specific focal point for small island developing States, and range from a subregional office to a country relations officer for the Caribbean and Pacific islands at the Global Environmental Facility (GEF). The ECLAC Caribbean office has five regular and two project staff, while the ESCAP Pacific Office has nine regular and two extrabudgetary posts. UNEP has a dedicated focal point at its headquarters in Nairobi and a regional focal point for the Caribbean within its Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean, in Panama City. UNESCO has a Section for Small Islands and Indigenous Knowledge, consisting of five regular and four extrabudgetary staff. Others have a focal point dealing with small island developing States as part of a broader portfolio, such as in the case of FAO. Where the functions of the focal point are carried out by a regional office, the focus tends to be on coordination of regional activities rather than the global coordination envisaged in the Barbados Programme of Action.

14. At the United Nations Secretariat, given the zero budget growth over many years, the number of posts within the Small Island Developing States Unit has not increased: the Unit had four regular posts and three extrabudgetary staff around the time of the convening of the International Meeting in Mauritius in 2005 and the numbers and composition remain the same today. This small team conducts all

normative, analytical and capacity-building activities. One positive development to note since 2005 is that the Unit now reports directly to the Director of the Division for Sustainable Development. Also, the Office of the High Representative now has one post dedicated to small island developing States, which did not exist in 2005.

15. There are other institutional arrangements. UNCTAD deals with small island developing States as part of its special programmes. The Convention on Biological Diversity has a programme of work on island biodiversity, supported by a dedicated staff. Other agencies deal with the issues of concern to small island developing States as part of their overall programme of work.

Mainstreaming the implementation of the Mauritius Strategy into the work programmes of the United Nations system

16. The mainstreaming and integration of activities related to small island developing States into the work programmes of the United Nations system has been identified as key for the implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action and Mauritius Strategy (see General Assembly resolution 65/156). The way in which this has occurred differs from entity to entity. ECLAC has effectively mainstreamed and integrated issues of concern to small island developing States into its work through the establishment of its Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean and the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee. In the case of ESCAP, the priorities of Pacific small island developing States have been integrated into the work of the Commission through the work programme of its Pacific Operations Centre. Most United Nations agencies have mainstreamed issues relating to small island developing States into their programme of work without necessarily resorting to a dedicated programme. UNEP takes an institution-wide strategic approach to its work so as to ensure that issues related to the needs and priorities of small island developing States are mainstreamed into its programme of work. UNESCO, with activities coordinated by its small island developing States focal point, uses the intersectoral platform established in 2007 for the sustainable development of small island developing States to pursue an integrated approach in its work on sustainable island living and development, which emphasizes interregional cooperation. WHO mainstreams issues of concern to small island developing States within the overall context of its work in all developing countries. The regional offices, however, help to tailor projects and programmes to the special needs of their constituent countries.

17. Another approach used is the United Nations Development Assistance Framework process, managed by UNDP, which also helps to mainstream and integrate issues related to small island developing States, as individual countries and as part of a subregion, into the development activities of the United Nations system in support of the Barbados Programme of Action and the Mauritius Strategy. At the country level, mainstreaming is also supported by other multilateral strategies, such as the poverty reduction strategy papers of the World Bank and the four-year rolling national medium-term priority frameworks of FAO.

C. Financial contributions

Allocation of financial resources to small island developing States

18. According to the 2008-2009 aid statistics of the Development Assistance Committee of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development

(OECD-DAC), United Nations agencies and the Bretton Woods institutions ranked among the top 10 donors of gross official development assistance (ODA) among the 34 small island developing States for which such data were available. While there are country differences, organizations among those 10 included GEF, UNDP, the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the International Development Association (IDA) of the World Bank Group. The figures cited below represent only the information available at the time the present report was finalized.

19. The World Bank has strengthened its financial assistance to small States, a category which includes several small island developing States. The resources allocated by IDA to small Pacific islands, except Papua New Guinea and Timor-Leste, have increased from around $40 million in each of the two previous IDA cycles (fiscal years 2003-2005 and 2006-2008) to nearly $100 million in the current IDA cycle (fiscal years 2009-2011). In June 2010, the Board of Directors of the World Bank Group endorsed the Regional Partnership Strategy of the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States, which seeks to support economic stability, competitiveness, and inclusive and sustained growth; financial assistance of up to $193 million is anticipated, in addition to technical and advisory services, for the next four years. Through its climate investment funds, the World Bank is working with other regional development banks in the Caribbean and the Pacific on the pilot programme of climate resilience. This effort provides from $60 million to $70 million in grant financing for a range of activities, including data collection, monitoring and capacity-building.

20. Small island developing States eligible for GEF funding have received financial allocations under the fourth and fifth replenishments of GEF. The total allocation for all eligible small island developing States under the fifth replenishment is around $150 million.

21. In its regular programme budget, UNESCO has devoted about $15 million to small island developing States over the past five years, with such States designated a priority area. In addition, approximately $8 million were provided to small island developing States through its Participation Programme, which allows national execution of activities in line with the objectives of the Programme and the budget of the Organization.

22. By early 2005, the total allocation for IFAD projects in small island developing States amounted to $148.7 million. Many of these projects are still ongoing. IFAD funds are usually a mixture of loans and grants, the latter being employed particularly in the least developed countries and to alleviate poverty. The FAO Trust Fund for Food Security and Food Safety has been used to fund two regional projects in the Pacific and the Caribbean.

Resource mobilization

23. The Small Island Developing States Unit has, over time, been able to mobilize donor funding to support the participation of small island developing States in the International Meeting in Mauritius, in the five-year review process of the Mauritius Strategy and now in the preparations for the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, to be held in 2012. The Unit has also mobilized bilateral funding to support project proposals that would benefit all small island developing States, such as a project funded by the Government of Spain (with a budget of over

$2.8 million) which includes revitalization of the Small Island Developing States Network (SIDSNet), the virtual training programme implemented through the university consortium of small island developing States and the European Union-funded monitoring and evaluation project for the Mauritius Strategy ($470,000). ESCAP and ECLAC have played a role in helping the small island developing States in their constituencies to mobilize resources for implementing the Mauritius Strategy. GEF has also supported programmes and projects for small island developing States in its areas of focus through country-specific allocations. GEF, in partnership with the implementing agencies and countries, also works with other donors to help secure co-financing of projects. UNDP, as the main GEF implementing agency, has played a key role in that regard by mobilizing significant resources from GEF for the implementation of activities covering various areas of the Barbados Programme of Action and the Mauritius Strategy. The World Bank has also played an important role in mobilizing financial resources. In the sixteenth replenishment of IDA, there is enhanced financial support to help small economies, including small island developing States, to make progress towards the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. In addition, small island developing States can also access other funds, such as the Least Developed Countries Fund (i.e., the 10 small island developing States in that group) and the Special Climate Change Fund, both of which are managed by GEF.

24. Other organizations of the United Nations system have also played an important role in mobilizing resources in their area of specialization. UNEP has been able to mobilize funds from GEF for activities and regional projects related to biodiversity, climate change, land management, persistent organic pollutants and international waters. UNEP has also mobilized funds for projects and programmes from bilateral donors and multilateral donors, such as the European Commission. WHO has successfully supported member States in mobilizing resources from the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria.

D. Four domains of support to small island developing States

1. Normative support

Monitoring and reporting

25. Monitoring of, and reporting on, the progress made in the implementation of the Mauritius Strategy is one of the primary roles of the Small Island Developing States Unit at United Nations Headquarters. The Unit reports to the Commission on Sustainable Development, the main United Nations body responsible for monitoring the implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action and the Mauritius Strategy. The planned European Union-funded monitoring and evaluation project to be undertaken by the Unit, in cooperation with the Indian Ocean Commission, will help to strengthen the monitoring capacity of small island developing States, as it includes country vulnerability and resilience profiling. UNDP, UNEP and the regional commissions also play important roles in providing support to the process of follow-up to and monitoring of the Mauritius Strategy at various levels. Many of the agencies, funds and programmes are accountable to their governing bodies in regard to activities in support of small island developing States. GEF is accountable to its members through the GEF Council and to donors through a number of mechanisms. The Executive Board of UNDP provides a monitoring mechanism for

its programmes. Furthermore, UNDP has monitoring and reporting processes in place within each country programme, as well as its subregional programmes. The 48 small States members of the World Bank, which include small island countries, gather at the Small States Forum to discuss their most pressing challenges and to hold themselves and their partners accountable for progress. The UNEP Governing Council and Global Ministerial Environment Forum provide a key monitoring mechanism at the global level for the work carried out by UNEP in relation to small island developing States. UNCTAD periodically reports to the Trade and Development Board on activities in favour of small island developing States, a denomination that was cited six times by member States in the Accra Accord, an outcome of the twelfth session of the Conference (2008).

Advocacy

26. The Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States plays a key advocacy role within the United Nations system, in partnership with the Small Island Developing States Unit. The regional commissions work proactively to ensure that the priorities and concerns of small island developing States are reflected in regional decisions, including those concerning the implementation of the outcomes of United Nations conferences. Such outcomes help to set the global policy agenda and influence the policies advocated by international and regional organizations, as well as the types of projects that bilateral donors would be likely to fund. At some United Nations organizations, governing councils or similar bodies help with advocacy for small island developing States. The GEF Council provides a forum for such States to advocate for their needs and priorities with donor agencies which could co-finance GEF-funded activities. UNEP also plays a key role in advocacy for small island developing States at the global, regional, subregional and national levels, particularly in areas of the Barbados Programme of Action directly related to its mandate. The advocacy role of UNCTAD focuses on substantively supporting small island developing States in their plea for modalities of special treatment. This relates to areas of critical importance to small island developing States, ranging from smooth transition measures for those that will be graduating from the least developed country category, to technical assistance that could be granted by virtue of their status. This implies enhancing the credibility of the category of small island developing State, a prerequisite that UNCTAD has responded to by adopting a list of 29 small island developing States for analytical and practical purposes.

Support for intergovernmental processes

27. Support to the preparatory process for the high-level five-year review of the Mauritius Strategy at the national, regional, interregional and global levels in 2010 was provided collectively by the United Nations system, in cooperation with relevant regional intergovernmental organizations, through numerous consultations held within the context of the inter-agency consultative group on small island developing States. This consisted of normative support, such as (a) providing national consultancy funding to small island developing States, upon request, in undertaking national assessments; (b) commissioning regional assessments; and (c) funding, planning, organizing and coordinating both substantive and logistical arrangements for preparatory meetings in the three regions of small island

developing States, for interregional meetings and for the high-level meeting itself. Similar support is being provided in the preparations for the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development in 2012.

28. The Small Island Developing States Unit has also provided support to negotiations held during the General Assembly on the review of and follow-up to the Mauritius Strategy and issues related to the Caribbean Sea and coral reefs, and for planning for the small island developing States day, first designated by the Commission on Sustainable Development in 2005 and observed during its review sessions. The Office of the High Representative organized capacity-building events to strengthen the negotiating capability of officials of small island developing States and provided support to negotiations in meetings concerning fish stocks.

Knowledge management

29. Knowledge management is one of the key functions of the Small Island Developing States Unit. The Unit is actively engaged in strengthening information activities for decision-making by small island developing States, and facilitating networking among the stakeholders. As part of its ongoing efforts, the Unit maintains a dedicated section within the website of the Division for Sustainable Development. This resource serves as a portal for small island developing States to access information from a number of sources relevant to the Barbados Programme of Action and the Mauritius Strategy. In addition, the Unit supports SIDSNet, which was first established in 1997 as a direct follow-up to the Barbados Programme of Action. SIDSNet is currently undergoing complete redesign and revitalization, as part of a new project funded by the Government of Spain. The network will be transformed into a much-needed central knowledge management system and platform for sharing knowledge and experience, exploring partnership opportunities and much more.

30. The websites of the ESCAP Pacific Operations Centre and the ECLAC Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee provide useful information for their subregions. The GEF website has a specific section which provides information on small island developing countries, networks and organizations, island country experiences in regard to GEF, the projects supported by GEF in small island developing States, topics of interest, and country information and contacts. The site also provides links to guides and templates for the preparation of project proposals, all of which are useful for small island developing States wishing to prepare proposals for GEF funding.

31. Several specialized agencies also have websites specific to small island developing States. The World Bank has a subsite on small States, while FAO has a web page containing information on specific items of interest to small island developing countries. UNESCO maintains a dedicated platform which presents its action for small island developing States on the basis of the chapters of the Mauritius Strategy. The Convention on Biological Diversity has a comprehensive website which contains a web portal on island biodiversity. The UNCTAD website contains a subsite on small island developing States, which provides useful materials and links.

32. The subregional offices of UNDP have websites dedicated to small island developing States. In the Pacific subregion, UNDP has established a partnership with the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat, the University of the South Pacific and

the Asian Development Bank which has led to the creation of the Pacific Solution Exchange, a virtual community of practice which brings together experts, policymakers and practitioners from 14 small island developing States in the Pacific region.

2. Technical cooperation and support for capacity-building

33. The capacity-building support provided to small island developing States by various United Nations agencies has been steadily increasing in terms of both quantity and quality. As the needs of small island developing States become better articulated, capacity-building support has become more targeted. Challenges and gaps continue to exist, with the vulnerability of small island developing States increasing owing to climate change, more frequent disasters, high debt and fuel costs, to name a few.

34. The portfolio of projects to benefit small island developing States carried out by the Division for Sustainable Development, including the Small Island Developing States Unit, now amounts to approximately $4.7 million. These projects aim to build the capacity of small island developing States in regard to the information and policymaking tools that address knowledge management, monitoring and evaluation, national sustainable development strategies and indicators, and such thematic areas as climate change, energy, water, human security and community-based disaster management.

35. The United Nations Development Programme assists small island developing States by offering a broad menu of policy advisory services and by delivering development programmes that are closely aligned with national development priorities. With regard to poverty, UNDP is working with several small island developing States in the areas of financial inclusion, strengthening national capacities as regards Millennium Development Goal-based policies and aid effectiveness systems, and promoting the exchange of knowledge on social protection systems. On governance deficits, UNDP works closely with national parliaments to strengthen their legislative and oversight capacities and advocates for the stronger political representation of women. On climate change, UNDP strives to strengthen adaptive capacity and the resilience of communities, and provides policy advice to governments on climate finance. Of particular significance in this context is its low-emission, climate-resilient development approach, which provides support to countries in the development of road maps to address climate change in ways that are pro-poor and that assist in the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. An example of this approach is the UNDP/World Bank SIDS Dock initiative, developed in partnership with the Alliance of Small Island States.

36. The Global Environment Facility is the main source of funding for programmes and projects undertaken in support of the implementation of the Mauritius Strategy. GEF ranked among the 10 top ODA donors in terms of all small island developing States for which OECD-DAC aid statistics are reported. GEF provides funding for a wide range of projects and programmes on environment issues, including biodiversity, climate change, international waters, land degradation, the ozone layer and persistent organic pollutants.

37. The efforts of ECLAC and ESCAP have mainly focused on providing technical advice to the Governments of small island developing States, upon request. Various projects and activities related to the topics highlighted in the Mauritius Strategy are

currently under way. Results have included policy changes influenced by the analytical inputs and policy advice provided by the two regional commissions to countries receiving technical cooperation services.

38. Activities carried out by UNCTAD for the benefit of small island developing States have been geared towards enhancing their capacities to find beneficial economic opportunities in current global markets, and to prevent their further marginalization from the global economy. This action involves research and analysis, the provision of policy advice to individual countries and technical assistance in areas ranging from smooth transition strategies for small island developing States graduating from the least developed country category to trade and investment policies. UNCTAD has the longest experience within the United Nations system in dealing with issues of specific relevance to small island developing States, having done so since 1974.

39. The capacity-building support provided by UNEP to small island developing States covers six cross-cutting thematic priorities of its medium-term strategy (2010-2013), namely, climate change, disasters and conflicts, ecosystem management, environmental governance, harmful substances and hazardous waste, and resource efficiency. In the Caribbean, the efforts of UNEP are guided by its Caribbean small island developing States programme.

40. The UNESCO programme for 2010-2011 includes interventions specific to island countries across the entire range of its activities, with particular emphasis given to such priorities as climate change, cultural heritage, and the identification of locally driven approaches to sustainable development. A number of UNESCO programmes have established subprogrammes dedicated to support the implementation of activities in the small island developing States members of the organization.

41. The International Fund for Agricultural Development has supported extensive projects in small island developing States. IFAD has funded 23 projects in countries of the AIMS group, 8 projects in 4 Pacific small island developing States, and 29 projects in 11 Caribbean countries. The aims of these projects include facilitating the development of pro-poor policies and programmes, managing fish resources sustainably and profitably, improving the livelihoods of coastal communities threatened by overexploitation of the marine environment, and assisting rural households to diversify their on-farm and off-farm income-generating enterprises and to improve their prospects for gaining employment.

42. Among other activities, FAO works to enhance the contribution of agriculture, forestry and fisheries to the development agenda of small island developing States. It implements national and regional programmes for food security, and seeks to assist small island developing States to integrate sustainable food security policies and programmes into national poverty reduction strategies.

43. The International Telecommunication Union (ITU) has carried out activities to bridge the digital divide between small island developing States and the rest of the world. Efforts undertaken by ITU have focused on reforming the telecommunication sector of these countries to introduce new structures which are more conducive to faster and sustained telecommunication development, with well-managed and modern networks, while also seeking to achieve universal access to such services.

44. The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) has trained government officials in various small island developing States in child protection and education in emergencies. It has supported the review and revision of policies to ensure the educational rights of children during disasters, as well as the study of the impact of climate change on children in respect of survival, development, protection and participation issues.

45. The World Bank has focused its efforts on aligning assistance with the priorities of individual countries and harmonizing aid programmes with other agencies to boost aid effectiveness. In the Pacific, the World Bank has been active in taking the small States agenda forward, developing a targeted and innovative lending programme, and implementing a responsive programme of country-based activities. In the Caribbean, it has provided flexible support for disaster mitigation, including contingent loans and analysis of the insurance market in relation to natural disasters.

46. The World Intellectual Property Organization has been engaged in the development and strengthening of national intellectual property systems and strategies to promote economic, social and cultural development in small island developing States of all three regions. Efforts have included the protection of traditional knowledge, regional patent systems, and the formulation of national intellectual property strategies.

47. The United Nations Industrial Development Organization has been active in promoting a number of national and regional projects among small island developing States, mainly in the area of energy.

3. Analytical support

Publications

48. Overall, the publications of United Nations agencies related to small island developing States have mostly been issued on a non-recurrent basis over the period 2005-2010. Very few have focused solely on such States but many organizations have released thematic or generic development-related publications which encompass or are relevant to them.

49. Publications of organizations of the United Nations system on themes of direct interest or relevance to small island developing States include the following: the UNCTAD publications on trade and development; the UNDP *Human Development Report* and other general development-related publications; the UNESCO booklet, *Islands in a Sea of Change*;[4] the wide range of technical reports prepared by the Convention on Biological Diversity in collaboration with UNEP, the International Union for the Conservation of Nature and others, on issues such as invasive alien species, biodiversity and tourism; the two recent publications prepared by the Division for Sustainable Development for the five-year review of the Mauritius Strategy, *Trends in Sustainable Development: Small Island Developing States, 2010*[5] and *SIDS-SIDS Success Stories: An Innovative Partnership in South-South*

[4] UNESCO, Paris, September 2009.

[5] United Nations publication, Sales No. E.10.II.A.12.

Cooperation;[6] the study, *Enhancing Pacific Connectivity*, prepared by ESCAP with the support of the Office of the High Representative, the UNDP Special Unit and the Government of Turkey (ST/ESCAP/2472); and the series of thematic and country-specific papers exploring the role of government policies and, in particular, social policies for the promotion of social development and economic transformation, focusing on 11 small island developing States and prepared by the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development in collaboration with the Commonwealth.

Data and statistics

50. Some organizations of the United Nations system publish data specific to small island developing States and allow users to access country-specific data. The UNCTAD *Handbook of Statistics* focuses on the group of 29 small island developing countries identified by UNCTAD as its operational list. The World Bank is one of the prime sources of statistics and data for all countries, including small island developing States, in particular in regard to economic data. UNEP provides a range of environmental information through the publications listed on its website, including *State of the Environment*, as well as environment-related information on individual countries. The section dedicated to small island developing countries on the UNESCO website contains links to statistics and data on key areas of interest, such as education statistics, information on research and development, and access to the Data Centre[7] which contains over 1,000 types of indicators and raw data on education, literacy, science and technology, culture and communication. UNESCO also provides assistance to member States to help them improve their statistical and analytical capacities. Through FAOSTAT,[8] FAO provides data and statistics related to agriculture and food security, including for small island developing States. The revitalization of SIDSNet envisions that a dedicated web portal containing a broad range of data and statistical information related to the sustainable development of small island developing States will soon be available online. A special issue[9] of the United Nations *World Statistics Pocketbook* was prepared by the Office of the High Representative in collaboration with the Statistical Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs.

51. At the regional level, ESCAP and ECLAC help to improve the statistical capabilities of the countries in their respective regions by strengthening national statistical infrastructure and promoting improvement in data quality, international comparability and the appropriate use of new techniques. In the Pacific, donors, United Nations agencies and multilateral organizations are working together to strengthen national disaggregated data and information systems through the 10-year Pacific statistics strategy. In the Caribbean, UNICEF, in partnership with the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), has supported the development of online DevInfo databases for sharing national data on children in the CARICOM

[6] United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, New York, August 2010. The publication was prepared by the Small Island Developing States Unit in cooperation with the Special Unit for South-South Cooperation of UNDP, on the basis of a collaborative effort among members of the inter-agency consultative group on small island developing countries.

[7] http://stats.uis.unesco.org/unesco/TableViewer/document.aspx?ReportId=143&IF_Language=eng.

[8] http://faostat.fao.org/.

[9] *World Statistics Pocketbook: Small Island Developing States, 2008* (United Nations, New York, 2009).

secretariat (CARICOMInfo) and St. Lucia (HelenInfo), while the secretariat of the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States and the Governments of Barbados, Dominica, Saint Kitts and Nevis and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines have developed desktop versions of their databases.

4. Coordination mechanisms

52. Coordination mechanisms for activities related to small island developing States within the United Nations system use a diversity of approaches at the national, regional and global levels.

53. At the national level, each UNDP office coordinates the activities of United Nations agencies by bringing them under the umbrella of the United Nations country team. The country team delivers coordinated services, supporting the sustainable development goals and priorities of the country in order to promote the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals.

54. At the regional level, the regional coordination mechanism in the Caribbean promotes a partnership among ECLAC, UNEP and the secretariats of CARICOM, the Association of Caribbean States and the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States. In the Pacific, membership in the Sustainable Development Working Group of the Council of Regional Organizations of the Pacific includes both United Nations and non-United Nations regional organizations in the region. The support provided by UNDP is coordinated within the subregions of small island developing States through subregional offices in Fiji and Samoa (for the Pacific) and in Barbados (for the Caribbean), and by a focal point at headquarters. There is no coordination mechanism for the small island developing States of the AIMS region, owing partly to the lack of a specific subregional coordinating office and partly to their geographical spread.

E. Optimizing support through better coordination

55. Progress in regard to coordination has been mixed. At the global level, the Small Island Developing States Unit has the primary role for coordination of support for small island developing States within the United Nations system, both through its role as chair and convenor of the inter-agency consultative group on small island developing States. The inter-agency group, which currently has 24 members, is an informal coordinating mechanism in which the focal points of all relevant United Nations and non-United Nations organizations hold consultations, exchange information and views, undertake joint planning and promote collaborative efforts in support of small island developing States. The inter-agency group has been instrumental in providing coordinated support to the five-year review of the Mauritius Strategy, especially at the national and regional levels. Enhanced inter-agency collaboration is ongoing in providing normative, analytical and capacity-building support to the preparations for the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development in 2012. Collaboration is also under way in the preparation of key reports of the Secretary-General, such as the present report and the report to be submitted to the General Assembly at its sixty-sixth session on how to address more effectively the vulnerabilities of small island developing States.

56. At the regional level, ESCAP and ECLAC, through their subregional offices, have worked in close collaboration with other United Nations entities and regional

organizations to coordinate the support provided by the United Nations system to small island developing States. ECLAC and ESCAP are also assisted by non-United Nations regional bodies, such as CARICOM, the South Pacific Regional Environment Programme and the Pacific Islands Forum. Through the work of these two regional commissions, small island developing States have an opportunity to be more closely aligned with other countries in the region, thus promoting regional cooperation.

57. The United Nations Development Programme has played a vital role in the coordination of activities of the United Nations system at the national and regional levels through its country and subregional offices in the Pacific and Caribbean. This role has been supported by the extensive network of UNDP country and subregional offices around the globe, which have helped to coordinate the development activities of UNDP and of various other United Nations agencies in support of the Barbados Programme of Action and the Mauritius Strategy. This process of coordination is usually based on the results of the common country assessment, which forms the basis of the United Nations Development Assistance Framework for a country or subregion. The Framework for the Pacific provides a good example of the process and purpose of the United Nations Development Assistance Framework, which aims to provide a coherent and coordinated "One United Nations" approach to development at the country or subregional level. Examples of small island developing States in which this approach has been adopted include Comoros, Cape Verde, Mauritius and Seychelles.

58. The United Nations Environment Programme has strengthened the delivery of activities by using its network of regional offices, environmental conventions, action plans and partnerships. UNEP also coordinates its activities for small island developing States through the Regional Seas Programme and the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities. UNESCO has cooperated closely with key agencies in the delivery of its programmes to small island developing States. Partner agencies include the Council of Regional Organizations of the Pacific and CARICOM. UNIDO has formed partnerships with UNDP, FAO, IFAD, the International Labour Organization, the World Trade Organization, UNEP and GEF in delivering its services to small island developing States. UNCTAD has been actively engaged with the Small Island Developing States Unit at United Nations Headquarters on issues related to the inter-agency consultative group, with ESCAP on technical assistance to countries in Asia and the Pacific graduating from the least developed country category, and with UNDP on the provision of direct support at the local level to various graduating small island developing States, and with regional intergovernmental organizations in the Caribbean, Pacific and AIMS regions.

III. Issues for consideration

59. The overall conclusion is that, on the whole, the United Nations system has provided small island developing States with a wide range of targeted support in the implementation of the Mauritius Strategy, in accordance with successive mandates. There is, however, room for improvement and enhancement in the delivery of coordinated and coherent programmes.

60. Strengthening United Nations support in accordance with the priorities identified in the Mauritius Strategy would accelerate progress towards the implementation of the Strategy and the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals and, in pursuance of General Assembly resolution 65/2, help to address the sustainable development challenges that continue to face small island developing States. Concerted action on critical elements would allow the efforts of the United Nations system to be more incisive. In the light of these critical elements, which are discussed below, and of the lessons learned from constraints in mainstreaming and integrating issues of concern to small island developing States into the work programmes of United Nations entities, Member States may wish, inter alia, to consider the issues set out below.

A. Mainstreaming

61. The Mauritius Strategy and a number of General Assembly resolutions have highlighted the importance of United Nations entities mainstreaming and integrating the Barbados Programme of Action and the Mauritius Strategy into their respective processes and programmes. One of the key conclusions of the present report is that, on the whole, United Nations entities have effectively mainstreamed the issues of concern to small island developing States into their programmes of work. This has been done in very different ways, according to individual mandates. The various approaches used by the organizations of the United Nations system illustrate a wide range of practices that can work effectively, given commitment and the allocation of sufficient resources.

Recommendation 1

Effective mainstreaming of issues of concern to small island developing States into the work of the United Nations system can be achieved in a variety of ways. Mainstreaming does not necessarily require special, stand-alone programmes targeted at these States; rather, a strategic approach has proven to be effective in integrating support for the Barbados Programme of Action into the work programmes of United Nations agencies, and ensures that the support provided to small island developing States is tailored to their special needs.

B. Coherent and coordinated approaches

62. One area in which progress has been mixed concerns coherent and coordinated approaches to issues of relevance to small island developing States; some successes have been achieved in this regard, while some gaps remain to be filled. The Small Island Developing States Unit plays a leading role in coordinating the relevant activities within the United Nations system, but has been constrained by lack of human resources despite repeated calls by the General Assembly for the strengthening of the Unit. High-level mechanisms, such as the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination and the United Nations

Development Group, because of their comprehensive mandates, are unlikely to address specifically issues related to small island developing States.

63. At the global level, the inter-agency consultative group has been effective, despite its informal status and working-level coordination of issues of concern to small island developing States. The work of this group is enhanced by the involvement of regional intergovernmental entities from outside the United Nations system. Questions have been raised as to whether this mechanism should be reviewed to include participation at the heads of agency level, and whether it should have a more formalized structure.

64. At the regional level, UNDP subregional offices and the subregional offices of ESCAP and ECLAC play vital roles in the coordination of United Nations system activities, and are ideally positioned to monitor the implementation of activities related to the Barbados Programme of Action and the Mauritius Strategy at the regional level. In the Caribbean, the United Nations-CARICOM Regional Strategic Framework, as a mechanism to coordinate technical assistance, could be aligned with the decisions of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee of ECLAC so that it better reflects the views of the countries of the Caribbean. Such complementarity would ensure that the normative activities of the United Nations Secretariat are linked to the technical cooperation activities of the United Nations funds, programmes and specialized agencies. This could help streamline the overall regional coordination mechanism, promote policy coherence and ensure that the United Nations works as one.

65. In the Pacific, the Council of Regional Organizations of the Pacific is an effective coordinating mechanism at the regional level. The Pacific Plan Action Committee is another forum for collective monitoring, prioritization and policy oversight which would contribute to the implementation of the Mauritius Strategy.

66. For small island developing States in the AIMS region, for which there is no one regional coordinating mechanism or United Nations regional office, UNDP can play a key role, through its country offices, by helping to provide coherent and coordinated support to small island developing States, thereby promoting the "One United Nations" approach. Given the lack of a dedicated office or programme for small island developing States, the Economic Commission for Africa might focus on ensuring that the special needs and priorities of the small island developing States in its region are integrated into its programme of work.

67. At the country level, the United Nations Development Assistance Framework process provides an example of a good practice that helps the United Nations system to deliver a coherent and coordinated development programme. Positive examples of the "One United Nations" approach at the country level in small island developing States include those of Comoros, Cape Verde, Mauritius and Seychelles.

Recommendation 2

Coordination and coherence of support provided to small island developing States by United Nations entities needs to be strengthened. At the global level, efforts might include, inter alia, strengthening and expanding the role of the inter-agency consultative group on small island developing States, as needed, reviewing its modus operandi, and exploring the issue of formalization of the group. At the regional level, the United

Nations organizations represented in the AIMS region need to collectively explore ways and means of setting up a coordinated support mechanism for small island developing States. At the country level, efforts might include, inter alia, harnessing the United Nations Development Assistance Framework process to ensure the adoption of a "One United Nations" approach in an increasing number of small island developing States.

C. Institutional support

68. United Nations entities have adopted a diversity of approaches to provide institutional support to small island developing States. Some organizations have set up specific institutions to coordinate the support provided, while others have delegated responsibility for the coordination of the activities of their organization to regional offices located within a subregion. Where, however, island-specific issues are handled by a unit located in a division with a broader regional or programmatic mandate, these issues can be "lost". In this regard, a dedicated office and/or focal point assists the delivery of coordinated support to small island developing States.

Recommendation 3

Although there is no one ideal mechanism for providing effective institutional support for small island developing States, setting up or strengthening a dedicated and clearly identified focal point within every United Nations entity dealing with issues of concern or thematic issues of relevance to small island developing States is vital for the effective delivery of support to such States. The need to strengthen the Small Island Developing States Unit of the Division of Sustainable Development, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, requires more urgent attention than ever before to effectively provide undisrupted and coordinated support to small island developing States in the four domains mentioned above, especially in continuing to help these States address vulnerabilities, build resilience and make their special development case.

D. Knowledge management

69. Information and knowledge are key instruments for monitoring, decision-making and evaluating the implementation of the Mauritius Strategy, and all relevant organizations of the United Nations system have an important, catalytic role to play in providing, analysing and disseminating them, within their given mandates. Websites dedicated to small island developing States, such as the revitalized SIDSNet, can facilitate effective knowledge management for small island developing States and promote partnerships, networking and collaboration among the organization of the United Nations system, as well as among small island developing States and with other partners. Other island-specific pages on the websites of all relevant agencies should supplement and have links to dedicated websites so that access to the technical and policy resources of interest to small island developing States can be enhanced.

Recommendation 4

Websites dedicated to specific issues of concern to small island developing States, such as SIDSNet, should be strengthened, with the active involvement of all small island developing States and their partners, in order to effectively promote partnerships, share knowledge and expertise, accumulate the relevant data and information and facilitate networking, and should have strong links to the respective websites of small island developing States. These websites should be easily accessible and contain comprehensive information on all activities of concern to small island developing States, including updated financial information on the projects and programmes being implemented.

E. One voice

70. One of the key lessons and success stories is the way in which various United Nations entities have helped small island developing States to speak with one voice in international forums. This has helped to ensure that the priorities and concerns of these States are reflected in global and regional decisions, including in the implementation of the outcomes of United Nations conferences. At the global level, the Small Island Developing States Unit and the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States, despite limited resources, have facilitated the articulation by small island developing States of their concerns and priorities to the extent possible, and enabled them to work together as a group. Positive examples include the support offered to the Alliance of Small Island States, and the assistance provided to the delegations of small island developing States on the occasion of United Nations meetings. Similarly, ESCAP and ECLAC have helped small island developing States in their regions to work together and speak with one voice at both the regional and global levels. UNESCO, through initiatives such as Small Islands Voice and Climate Frontlines, and other specialized agencies have also helped in this process.

Recommendation 5

Small island developing States need a strong voice at the global level. The Small Island Developing States Unit, the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States and the regional commissions in particular play an active and catalytic role in facilitating the emergence of a collective voice which can articulate the particular concerns and priorities of small island developing States. Other United Nations agencies are encouraged to also play an increasingly important role in helping to give small island developing States a voice in international forums.

F. Roles and responsibilities

71. The Barbados Programme of Action and the Mauritius Strategy identified key roles for the United Nations system in supporting the implementation of the programme areas for the sustainable development of small island developing States. These crucial roles have been reinforced by the General Assembly in various resolutions (e.g., resolutions 59/311 and 65/2). In those resolutions, the General Assembly reiterated that, while primary responsibility for the implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action and the Mauritius Strategy rests with the small island developing States themselves, the relevant United Nations agencies have a key role, within their respective areas of expertise and mandates, in supporting and supplementing national efforts. The present analysis concludes that the United Nations system has provided support for the national implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action, ranging from the coordination of activities and funding and implementation of major projects and programmes, to the active support provided by a wide range of specialized agencies. Small island developing States, however, can play a crucial role in ensuring that United Nations agencies are able to provide targeted support for their national efforts. There are various opportunities for small island developing States to work in partnership with the agencies of the United Nations system to tailor services to their special needs and priorities. At the national level, these opportunities include, inter alia, the global support programme for national capacity self-assessments funded by GEF, the common country assessments undertaken by UNDP, and the United Nations Development Assessment Frameworks coordinated by the United Nations system. In order to fully benefit from the support of all relevant United Nations bodies, agencies, programmes and funds, these and other related processes need to be harnessed by each small island developing State.

Recommendation 6

By harnessing processes such as the national capacity self-assessment, common country assessment and the United Nations Development Assistance Framework, small island developing States and the United Nations system have various opportunities to work in close partnership. Enhanced collaboration among organizations of the United Nations system, involving also all relevant non-United Nations regional organizations, would allow small island developing States to fully benefit from the support of the United Nations system, and would help the system to better tailor its services to the special needs and priorities of these States.

G. Making a stronger case for small island developing States

72. Several agencies have been undertaking analytical work that addresses the particular vulnerabilities of small Island developing States. UNCTAD focuses its analytical work on the structural disadvantages and development needs of small island developing States, as well as on the criteria for the least developed countries, which include some small island developing States. UNDP has undertaken a study on debt sustainability. The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the World Bank have been working on, inter alia, climate change adaptation, risk assessment and insurance schemes. The Convention on Biological Diversity has addressed threats to biodiversity. A report of the Secretary-General on addressing the vulnerabilities and development needs of small island developing States, currently under collective preparation for submission to the General Assembly at its sixty-sixth session, will provide further information on these issues and on ongoing work.

Recommendation 7

Analytical work to address both the special vulnerabilities of small island developing States and to explore ways in which to help build their resilience needs to be continued by all concerned United Nations agencies in a coordinated and comprehensive manner with a view to making a stronger case in favour of small island developing States in the various climate change, economic and trade forums.

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Item 9 of the provisional agenda**
Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations

Assistance to the Palestinian people

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

During the period under review, the Palestinian Authority continued to implement its two-year programme of strengthening the State institutions of a future Palestinian State. The United Nations enhanced its support to those efforts and responded to humanitarian needs. In the key areas of United Nations engagement, the functions of the Palestinian Authority are sufficient for a functioning State government. However, those achievements remain constrained by the continued occupation by Israel and a political divide with Gaza.

The overall socio-economic and political situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory remained challenging, despite economic growth registered across the Territory, which was prompted by Palestinian and Israeli efforts. The Israeli-Palestinian direct talks, despite a brief resumption in September 2010, remained suspended during most of the reporting period. Calls for legislative and presidential elections, which had been postponed in 2010, also remained uncertain due to a continued political split between the West Bank and Gaza, although municipal elections have been set for July 2011. Unemployment and food insecurity remained high, particularly in Gaza, despite economic growth there resulting in part from the easing of the closure and from approval of a number of United Nations reconstruction projects. Key elements of Security Council resolution 1860 (2009) remained unfulfilled.

* A/66/50.
** E/2011/100.

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The present report describes efforts made by the United Nations, in cooperation with the Palestinian Authority, donors and civil society, to support the Palestinian population and institutions.

I. Introduction

1. The present report is submitted in compliance with General Assembly resolution 65/134, in which the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to submit a report to it, at its sixty-sixth session, through the Economic and Social Council, on the implementation of the resolution, containing an assessment of the assistance actually received by the Palestinian people and of the needs still unmet, and specific proposals for responding effectively to them. The reporting period is from May 2010 to April 2011.

2. Information on the living and socio-economic conditions of the Palestinian people is provided in several reports prepared by other United Nations agencies, in particular: (a) the report of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia on the economic and social repercussions of the Israeli occupation on the living conditions of the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including Jerusalem, and of the Arab population in the occupied Syrian Golan (to be issued); and (b) the annual report of the Commissioner-General of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) (A/65/13).

3. The humanitarian, economic and development needs of the Palestinian people are reflected in several documents. The Consolidated Appeals Process for 2011 sought $575 million to address the humanitarian needs of the most vulnerable and where the Palestinian Authority outreach is limited, namely the Gaza Strip, Area C, including the seam zones, and East Jerusalem. The medium-term response plan for 2009-2010 outlined the United Nations contribution to the national development and State-building efforts of Palestinians as defined in the Palestinian Reform and Development Plan. UNRWA programme goals for the period 2010-2015 were reflected in the Agency's medium-term strategy, which was estimated at $675 million for 2010-2011, excluding emergency relief interventions. The Palestinian National Development Plan 2011-2013 outlined priority development needs worth $4.161 billion. The Palestinian Authority programme of the 13th government, entitled "Palestine: ending the occupation, establishing the State", outlined the government's two-year State-building strategy, which was updated on 30 August 2010 by a document entitled "Homestretch to freedom: the second year of the 13th government programme", which outlined the remaining steps to build a viable State by August 2011.

4. During the reporting period, the Office of the United Nations Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process and Personal Representative of the Secretary-General to the Palestine Liberation Organization and the Palestinian Authority continued its efforts to support the peace process and to ensure effective coordination among the Palestinian Authority, the United Nations, the international community and the Government of Israel. The Office also continued to document the economic and social conditions in the Occupied Palestinian Territory and develop policies and programmes to improve them.

5. The present report provides an overview of the work of the United Nations to assist the Palestinian people and institutions, as requested by the General Assembly in its resolution 65/134. Also included is a summary of key political developments and challenges relevant to the reporting period, as the international community works to alleviate the suffering of the Palestinian people, as well as to support the

State-building efforts of the Palestinian Authority and negotiations between the parties.

II. Overview of the current situation

A. Political context

6. Israeli-Palestinian proximity talks, mediated by the United States of America from May to August 2010, paved the way for the resumption of direct negotiations on 2 September. However, the negotiations were suspended on 26 September, when the partial 10-month Israeli restraint on settlement construction in the West Bank expired. Both the Prime Minister of Israel, Benjamin Netanyahu and the President of the Palestinian Authority, Mahmoud Abbas, agreed during their meetings in September to seek a solution based on two States for two peoples, that the negotiations could be completed within one year, and that their aim was to resolve borders, security, refugees, Jerusalem and all other core issues.

7. The Quartet continued its efforts to help the parties find a way back to direct negotiations. As agreed by the Quartet principals in Munich on 5 February, Quartet envoys met separately with Palestinian and Israeli negotiators, and have been giving serious consideration to the views of the parties on how to bring about resumed negotiations on all core issues, including borders and security. The Quartet reaffirmed that negotiations should lead to an outcome that ends the occupation that began in 1967 and resolves all permanent status issues, in order to end the conflict and achieve a two-State solution. The Quartet reiterated its support for concluding those negotiations by September 2011. The Secretary-General continued to support efforts to help the parties resolve the conflict and achieve the two-State solution.

8. In the West Bank, the Palestinian Authority has made serious gains in the pursuit of a State-building agenda in the Territory under the Authority's control. On 30 August, the Authority issued a programme document entitled "Homestretch to freedom: the second year of the 13th government programme", which sets further goals and means of strengthening State institutions for a future State by August 2011. In September 2010, the Quartet and the Ad Hoc Liaison Committee took note of the assessment of the World Bank of 16 September 2010 that the performance of the Palestinian Authority in institution-building and delivery of public services made the Authority well positioned for the establishment of a State.

9. During the Ad Hoc Liaison Committee meeting on 13 April, the United Nations made clear its assessment that in the six areas, namely health, education, governance, social protection, food security and livelihoods and infrastructure, where it is mostly engaged with the Palestinian Authority, the functions of the Authority were sufficient for a viable State government. The World Bank and the International Monetary Fund also reported strong progress in institution-building at the Ad Hoc Liaison Committee meeting, the Chair of which concluded that the Palestinian Authority was above the threshold for a functioning State in the key sectors studied. However, those admirable achievements remained constrained by the continued Israeli occupation and a political divide between the West Bank and Gaza, and thus did not apply yet to East Jerusalem, much of Area C and Gaza.

10. The internal Palestinian divide continued during the reporting period, inhibiting the ability of the Palestinian Authority to extend its State-building work to Gaza. That underscored the need for progress towards Palestinian unity within the framework of the Palestinian Authority and the commitments of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO). In March, in response to popular protests in Gaza and Ramallah, the PLO leadership and Hamas in Gaza announced their intentions to seek reconciliation. President Abbas said that he intended to visit the Gaza Strip to discuss unity with Hamas officials. Both sides engaged in consultations with the Egyptian authorities and other regional Governments to advance unity. On 27 April, Fatah and Hamas initialled a preliminary understanding for a reconciliation agreement. On 8 February, the Palestinian Authority had called for local elections to be held on 9 July. On 17 February, President Abbas declared that presidential and legislative elections should also be held as soon as possible in the West Bank and in Gaza.

11. In Gaza, key elements of Security Council resolution 1860 (2009) remained unfulfilled. Hamas remained in de facto control of the Gaza Strip. Israel continued to maintain closure of the Strip. On 20 June, following the flotilla incident of 31 May, the Government of Israel announced measures aimed at "liberalizing the system by which civilian goods enter Gaza". On 8 December, the Government of Israel decided to further "liberalize" exports from Gaza. The flow of construction materials, particularly aggregate, iron bar and cement, entering Gaza through tunnels between Gaza and Egypt continued to be significantly higher than the amount entering through Israeli-controlled crossings. Concerns remained about the smuggling of weapons into Gaza.

12. The humanitarian situation in the Gaza Strip remained a priority for the United Nations. The Secretary-General continued to urge the Government of Israel to further relax the closure, and for further measures to promote full economic recovery and reconstruction of Gaza. The Government of Israel approved more than $150 million of United Nations projects involving "dual-use" materials during the reporting period. There has been some reconstruction of the destroyed civilian infrastructure and damage caused by Israel's military operation "Cast Lead".

13. A fragile and uneasy de facto calm was broadly maintained between Gaza and Israel, but indiscriminate firing of rockets, mortars and other munitions on Israel by Hamas and other militant groups increased dramatically in 2011, amid another round of worrying escalation. The frequency of Israeli operations in Gaza also vastly increased during the reporting period, resulting in civilian deaths and injuries. The United Nations supported efforts to de-escalate tensions, but the underlying causes of instability remained unaddressed.

14. Notwithstanding continued performance of the Palestinian security forces and an overall improved security climate marked by the lowest presence of Israeli troops since 2005, violent acts by settlers against the Palestinian population and violence against the settler population continued during the reporting period. The first quarter of 2011 witnessed an increase in violent incidents and a rise in tensions in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem. In East Jerusalem, that was due in part to settlement activity, house demolitions and evictions, expulsion of East Jerusalem Palestinian residents and other provocative actions. There was also a de facto settlement restraint in East Jerusalem for a part of the reporting period and the Israeli authorities made efforts to ease access to Temple Mount/Haram Al-Sharif for

prayers during the month of Ramadan. On 23 March, a bomb exploded at a bus terminal in the centre of Jerusalem, killing one and injuring some 30 civilians.

B. Humanitarian and socio-economic context

Economic and fiscal developments

15. Real growth of the gross domestic product (GDP) was estimated at 9.3 per cent for 2010, consisting of 7.6 per cent in the West Bank and 15.1 per cent in Gaza. While the gradual easing of movement restrictions contributed to economic growth in the West Bank, the main drivers were public expenditure by the Palestinian Authority and donor support,[1] and also higher private sector confidence and reforms by the Authority. Growth in Gaza was in part attributed to the relaxation of the closure by Israel. Consumer price inflation fell from 4 per cent at the end of 2009 to 2.9 per cent in 2010. Unemployment rates fell slightly in 2010, compared with 2009, from 17.8 to 17.2 per cent in the West Bank, and from 38.6 to 37.8 per cent in Gaza. Concerns about the long-term prospects of the Palestinian economy continued to include the need for recovery of the private sector, reduction of dependency on foreign aid and public expenditure, diversification of the economy, access to natural resources and removal of access restrictions.

16. The government of President Abbas and Prime Minister Salam Fayyad continued to implement key economic and fiscal reforms. The Palestine Authority estimated that the annual deficit would fall to $1 billion in 2011, reflecting a 16 per cent decrease from 2010 and a steady decline over the past three years. Efforts to improve the collection of utility bills and other revenues have been strengthened. Value added in services accounted for 17.2 per cent of West Bank GDP in 2010, followed by mining, manufacturing, electricity and water (14.1 per cent) and wholesale and retail trade (11.9 per cent). On 4 February, Prime Minister Netanyahu agreed with Quartet representative, Tony Blair, on a package of measures to help improve Palestinian livelihoods and support economic growth in the West Bank and in Gaza. The package included enhancements in energy, water and exports for Gaza, and further support on telecommunications, schools and clinics in Area C in the West Bank.

17. Economic activity in Gaza was positively affected by the 20 June 2010 decision (see para. 11 above). Value added in services accounted for 32.7 per cent of Gaza's GDP in 2010, followed by public administration and defence (22.4 per cent) and construction (9.5 per cent). The estimated number of tunnels in operation at the end of the reporting period had fallen to roughly 300.[2]

Humanitarian and socio-economic developments

18. During the reporting period from 1 May 2010 to 12 April 2011 (see A/65/77-E/2010/56), 112 Palestinians were killed (99 in Gaza, 13 in the West Bank) and 1,270 injured (386 in Gaza, 884 in the West Bank) by Israeli security forces,

[1] See World Bank, "The underpinnings of the future Palestinian state: sustainable growth and institutions", Economic Monitoring Report to the Ad Hoc Liaison Committee (21 September, 2010).

[2] See United Nations, "*Easing the blockade: assessing the humanitarian impact on the population of the Gaza Strip*", Special Focus (March 2011), and A/65/77-E/2010/56, para. 18.

compared with 63 fatalities and 1,100 injuries during the previous period. In the West Bank, growing settler violence towards Palestinians resulted in three fatalities, 130 injuries and damage to property. During the reporting period, 11 Israelis were killed, including a family of five members on 11 March in the settlement of Itamar, and 91 injured, compared with 5 Israelis killed and 191 injured during the previous reporting period. Six people were killed and 66 injured as a result of intra-Palestinian conflict, compared with 47 killed and 62 injured in the previous reporting period. Militants launched 828 rockets and mortar shells towards Israel in the reporting period, compared with 91 in the previous period. Violations against children continued, as described in the report of the Secretary-General on Children in Armed Conflict (S/2011/250, paras. 120-129).

19. The level of food insecurity in the Occupied Palestinian Territory decreased from 36 per cent in 2009 to 33 per cent in 2010, consisting of 52 per cent in Gaza and 22 per cent in the West Bank. Food insecurity levels were exacerbated in the West Bank by continued demolitions of housing and livelihood assets, which increased fourfold during the reporting period. Particularly in Area C, demolition of water harvesting cisterns and other livelihoods assets increased significantly, with more than 15 demolitions since the beginning of 2011. In the Gaza Strip, household vulnerability to food insecurity was also affected by lack of access to agricultural land in the buffer zone and limited access to fishing areas.

Movement, humanitarian access and operational space

20. The Israeli authorities continued to adopt measures to ease the movement of Palestinians between most Palestinian urban centres in the West Bank, excluding East Jerusalem. As of the drafting of the present report, there were approximately 500 closure obstacles inside the West Bank, 50 fewer than at the beginning of the reporting period. The positive impact of those measures, however, was offset in part by the number of ad hoc "flying" checkpoints, which averaged about 92 per week. During 2010, UNRWA faced continued restrictions in accessing refugee communities in the West Bank, with major implications on its ability to meet the humanitarian needs of Palestine refugees. Ongoing restrictions on Palestinian access to land, social services and economic opportunities in East Jerusalem and Area C maintained both occupied areas in a chronic state of arrested development, with deteriorating living conditions and increased vulnerability.

21. In Gaza, the additional restrictions on land and sea access put in place by the Israel Defense Forces in the wake of operation "Cast Lead" remained in place. The land along the border with Israel remained a "no-go" area for Gazans, with Israel citing security concerns in denying almost all access within 1,000 to 1,500 metres of the border. Thirty-five per cent of Gaza's agricultural land and 85 per cent of the maritime space continued to be inaccessible, affecting 178,000 people.

22. The volume of people travelling through the Erez crossing point, the only passage for movement of people between Gaza and the West Bank via Israel, rose slightly during the reporting period, from 106 per day in the first half of 2010 to 114 per day in the second half of 2010. Permits for Gaza businessmen rose sharply, from an average of 87 per month to 503 per month.

23. International and national non-governmental organizations in Gaza continued to face pressure from the de facto authorities. In some cases, national

non-governmental organizations were forced to close or came under direct control of Hamas authorities.

24. Access and operational space for staff of humanitarian agencies remained restricted. From May 2010 to March 2011, there were also 512 reported incidents of delayed or denied access of United Nations staff at Israeli checkpoints, resulting in a loss to the United Nations of approximately 344 working days. Many of those affected included teachers, medical doctors, nurses, social workers and field office staff, negatively affecting the delivery of education and health services and relief operations. The majority of the incidents occurred as United Nations staff crossed the barrier on the Jerusalem periphery. A unit within the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs of the Secretariat, working on behalf of the Humanitarian Coordinator, continued to address the issues and support the operations of the United Nations and international non-governmental organizations throughout the Occupied Palestinian Territory.

Barrier

25. During the reporting period, no new sections were added to the barrier, which was being constructed contrary to the advisory opinion rendered by the International Court of Justice in July 2004. As of February 2011, 62 per cent of the planned 709 km barrier remained completed. The United Nations Register of Damage Caused by the Construction of the Wall in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, established pursuant to General Assembly resolution ES-10/17, continued to perform its outreach activities and collect claims. More than 16,000 claims and more than 150,000 supporting documents were collected. Claim collection activities in Tubas and Jenin governorates were completed and the work was in advanced stages in Qalqilya and Tulkarem governorates as of the drafting of the present report. Other areas of continuing concern included limited access on the part of farmers to agricultural land behind the barrier and the situation of those communities in the "seam zone" that face restricted access to health and education services.

III. United Nations response

26. The United Nations system continued to pursue an integrated political, humanitarian, recovery and development strategy. It continued to promote a negotiated permanent status agreement for a two-State solution, a durable Israeli-Palestinian peace and the implementation of road map obligations by the parties. The United Nations continued planning and implementing extensive humanitarian programmes, in particular in Gaza, while strengthening its support to Palestinian State-building efforts.

A. Human and social development

27. The United Nations coordinated and delivered humanitarian assistance in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including the provision of food assistance to more than 1 million people, water and sanitation assistance to more than 1.5 million, and health and nutrition services to nearly 2.5 million. The United Nations also

continued to support the State-building agenda of the Palestinian Authority and the realization of the Millennium Development Goals in the Territory.

Education

28. UNRWA provided free school education to more than 260,000 students in 325 elementary and preparatory schools in Gaza and the West Bank. Two thirds of the schools operated on a double-shift system, including 95 per cent of UNRWA schools in Gaza, where even that measure proved insufficient to accommodate the student population. During the reporting period, UNRWA created "rotating classes" in each of its schools in order to absorb student growth. To accommodate the growing student populations, UNRWA operated two schools from shipping containers, which were also placed in six other schools to provide emergency classroom space. There was chronic overcrowding and double, or sometimes triple, utilization of classrooms and, in many classrooms, three or four students sat at a desk designed for two.

29. The United Nations continued to provide extensive opportunities for vocational and non-formal education for Palestinians. UNRWA provided 1,840 youth from the West Bank with technical vocational training in three colleges in Ramallah. UNESCO continued the provision of learning opportunities for vulnerable and marginalized communities through a non-formal education support centre in Nablus. The support of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) to the Palestinian Authority Ministry of Education, under the child-friendly school initiative focused on remedial learning programmes to around 20,000 vulnerable children in 100 lowest performing schools, in order to help them improve their Arabic language and mathematics tests. In efforts to support reconstruction efforts, the International Labour Organization (ILO) and UNRWA jointly implemented a skills development programme primarily targeting the construction of refugee shelters in Gaza. ILO and UNRWA also worked to increase the skills and employability of older students in the construction sector.

30. ILO and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) promoted a culture of entrepreneurship and self-employment among young women and men. Under the auspices of the Palestinian Authority Ministries of Labour and Education, the "know about business" training package was rolled out to vocational and secondary schools. In view of its positive contribution, the project was being expanded to include all vocational and educational institutions.

31. UNESCO continued to provide technical assistance for the national teacher education strategy, particularly through support to the Commission for Developing the Teaching Profession. UNICEF supported in-service teacher training to at least 2,500 teachers on interactive learning methods and the use of math and science kits. UNICEF support to the finalization of the national policy framework for early childhood development was coupled with early learning opportunities for at least 10,000 children through capacity-building of 450 parents, 320 caregivers and 30 kindergarten supervisors, and the provision of early childhood development kits to 50 kindergartens. UNICEF continued to support the school management information system to inform policy and programme interventions and enhance identification of gaps and vulnerabilities for urgent interventions.

32. The UNDP Deprived Families Economic Empowerment Programme continued to implement the Al Fakhoora scholarship programme for Gazan students. In 2010,

100 students were selected from Gaza's universities for a full scholarship in areas of youth and education.

33. All pupils in UNRWA Gaza schools received a small meal under the school feeding programme. The United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) and the Palestinian Authority Ministry of Education partnered to improve health and nutrition at 161 schools, benefiting 67,000 students. The partnership also generated substantial income for women's groups and community-based organizations, which were contracted to provide food for the school canteens.

34. The UNICEF-led education cluster supported the advocacy efforts of the humanitarian country team for 26 schools in Area C that were in urgent need of rehabilitation and emergency education support. The specific needs of each school were assessed and the information shared with the international community and key stakeholders. UNICEF, UNRWA and the Palestinian Authority Ministry of Education launched a back-to-school advocacy campaign in Area C. The event, widely covered by international, regional and local media, drew the attention of concerned partners and stakeholders to the right to education of all children.

Health

35. UNRWA continued to play a major role in the provision of health care, operating 42 health facilities in Gaza and the West Bank and 19 health points and five mobile clinics in the West Bank, in total employing more than 2,000 people. The number of consultations continued to increase, placing greater demands on the limited health services of UNRWA. The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) continued to provide technical and financial support to four women's health centres in Hebron and the Jabalia and Al Buraj refugee camps in Gaza. In the area of mental health, UNRWA held counselling sessions, while the World Health Organization (WHO) worked with the Palestinian Authority Ministry of Health to develop a strategic mental health plan.

36. The United Nations continued to focus on programming for infants and young children. Working jointly with Palestinian Authority Ministry of Health and the National Breastfeeding Committee, UNICEF supported the promotion of infant and young child feeding practices, through a breastfeeding campaign targeting around 7,500 mothers in Gaza. In addition, WHO supported the Ministry of Health in implementing the national strategy of infant and young child feeding practices. In support of the WHO strategy on integrated management of childhood illness, UNICEF supported the training of around 100 health-care providers and made available forms for recording sick children to health clinics.

37. UNICEF supported the Ministry of Health in maintaining high immunization coverage across the Occupied Palestinian Territory through the procurement of polio vaccines for the protection of 42,000 children, and procurement and logistics support for all other vaccines. UNICEF also provided urgent laboratory kits for laboratory micronutrient testing and printed maternal and child health handbooks for growth monitoring.

38. WHO worked with the Ministry of Health to compile information for an online health facilities database, including locations, types of services, specialized staff and equipment. WHO also worked with the Ministry to implement a jointly developed

strategic plan to prevent non-communicable diseases, and continued to support the Ministry in strengthening the nutrition surveillance system to monitor the situation of infants, pregnant women and schoolchildren.

39. As part of the programmes under the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, the United Nations, together with the Palestinian Ministry of Health and the national AIDS committee, conducted training for 5,162 peer educators; 452 health personnel and community workers on HIV counselling and testing; 22 doctors on specialized antiretroviral treatment; 995 health workers on blood safety and universal precautions; and 2,333 political, community, religious leaders and police and armed services on basic HIV knowledge and stigma reduction. It also produced 278 television and radio shows on HIV prevention.

40. Also through the Global Fund, UNICEF supported efforts to improve adolescents' knowledge of HIV prevention, including training 515 trainers and peer educators through awareness-raising workshops; sensitization of 162 community, religious and youth leaders on HIV/AIDS and stigma reduction; and the production of two booklets, on HIV prevention and sexual reproductive health, for schools, adolescent-friendly spaces and UNRWA clinics. UNICEF supported a national knowledge attitude practice survey, which will provide a national baseline to guide planning for HIV prevention interventions in 2011 and beyond. Through the Global Fund, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime supported the development of a national strategy to address HIV prevention, treatment and care among drug users and prison inmates. The Office also helped to establish two drop-in centres for injecting drug users in Gaza and the West Bank.

41. In addition to technical assistance and direct humanitarian programming, the United Nations supported the development of health infrastructure. UNDP and WHO jointly conducted an assessment of public health infrastructure needs in the Gaza Strip, aimed at identifying hospitals, clinics and primary health-care centres most in need of rehabilitation. In the West Bank, UNDP completed the expansion of a hospital in Tulkarem, adding a floor with 41 beds, and is completing the expansion of another hospital in Jenin, where two additional floors and 95 beds will be added. Rehabilitation efforts for three community mental health centres were under way, with two (Nablus and Ramallah) due to be completed in 2011. UNDP purchased three new ambulances for the Palestinian Ministry of Health and Civil Defence Department.

Employment

42. UNDP and ILO supported the establishment of a Technical Advisory Unit at the Ministry of Labour leveraging ILO technical expertise in the development, implementation and monitoring of labour market policies.

43. UNDP continued a programme providing emergency job creation schemes in solid waste management, agriculture and fishery, benefiting 50,000 people. UNDP strengthened activities under the Deprived Families Economic Empowerment Programme and other microfinance projects, providing income for more than 6,000 households. The construction of youth and women's centres, schools for the blind, road and other basic infrastructure, additional classrooms and water networks also continued to generate employment for Palestinians through a poverty-oriented small-scale infrastructure employment generation programme. A total of 21 projects

were completed in 2010, seven were ongoing and 67 were selected and approved for additional funding in 2011.

Targeted social protection

44. The World Bank-funded Social Safety Net Reform Project was merged with European Union-funded programmes during the reporting period. The cash transfer programme provided assistance to more than 63,000 poor households on a quarterly basis. The reform effort supported by the project and led by the Palestinian Ministry of Social Affairs resulted in the establishment of an effective poverty-targeting database as well as the systematic use of the banking system to provide and to monitor cash transfers. UNRWA distributed 538,185 food parcels and around $5.4 million in supplementary cash assistance to nearly 32,820 households through its programme for special hardship cases. UNRWA provided a family income supplement to bridge the abject poverty gap for 10,441 individuals in the West Bank and 68,321 individuals in Gaza. A total of $8,998,854 was distributed through the programme.

Culture

45. UNESCO continued its technical assistance to the Palestinian Authority with a view to its future adherence to and implementation of key international instruments. UNESCO continued to lead a multi-agency programme on culture through the UNDP-Spain Millennium Development Goals Achievement Fund. With support from donors, longer-term protection, preservation and enhancement measures were undertaken at eight cultural heritage sites, including one in Gaza. Such interventions aimed at developing models for the management of cultural heritage with international standards and enhancing opportunities for domestic and international cultural tourism. UNESCO also worked with the Palestinian Authority on a national inventory of intangible cultural heritage.

Food security and agriculture

46. The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) assisted more than 10,000 households in the West Bank and Gaza during the reporting period in order to maximize and safeguard the use of their assets and resources and to expand their livelihood opportunities. Support was provided in backyard food production, herding, fisheries, cottage industries, home gardening, food-processing and land rehabilitation. FAO also supported the mainstreaming of gender perspectives in agriculture and dedicated significant resources to empowering youth.

47. The UNDP Deprived Families Economic Empowerment Programme project supported the establishment of 2,500 sustainable rural and agricultural enterprises in the fishery, livestock, greenhouse and food processing sectors in Gaza through grants and microfinancing schemes. Each enterprise was composed of one to four employees and generated sufficient income to support one to three households. The Islamic Development Bank and the Governments of Japan and Italy supported the initiatives, creating 12,000 jobs as of the drafting of the present report. Women led approximately 37 per cent of the enterprises. Through its emergency support project, UNDP replanted 3,000 dunums of vegetables, rehabilitated 118 fishing boats and fishery gearing boxes, provided input materials for 128 poultry farms and rehabilitated 39 groundwater wells and 600 greenhouses.

Human rights, women, children and youth

48. The United Nations continued to mainstream human rights into all of its work and provide technical assistance in order to strengthen the capacity of the Palestinian Authority on human rights. The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and other United Nations agencies started a programme of work with the Palestinian Authority to comprehensively update and revise the Palestinian national plan of action for human rights, which had been jointly prepared in 2000 but subsequently suspended due to the political situation.

49. Together with other United Nations agencies and civil society, OHCHR participated in the revision of the Palestinian Penal Code, with the aim of ensuring that any new legislation would be in accordance with international standards. In continuation of its programme to train the Palestinian judiciary on international human rights standards, OHCHR held a three-day seminar in the West Bank for 12 Palestinian judges. In 2011, the Palestinian Authority announced that civilians would no longer be tried in military courts, a decision welcomed by United Nations agencies and civil society, which had advocated for its adoption.

50. The special needs of women, children and youth remained a focus for the United Nations. Acting under the umbrella of the Ministry of Social Affairs, UN-Women continued to support the Mehwar Centre, which hosted and protected a monthly average of 25 women and their children from violence and honour killings.

51. UNFPA supported training of 350 women from municipalities, health centres, rehabilitation centres, non-governmental organizations and local communities on psychosocial support and mental health, gender-based violence and human rights. UNFPA continued to support four community-based networks, through which more than 35,000 vulnerable women benefited from 2,100 outreach awareness sessions, and involved men in capacity-building courses and counselling. Family protection units established within the police force in the West Bank were strengthened through training of 250 police officers and 50 prosecutors from the office of the Prosecutor General. More than 200 imams and women preachers also participated in child rights and protection awareness training, enabling them to advocate for child rights issues during Friday sermons and religious sessions in mosques.

52. UNICEF provided direct psychosocial support through non-governmental partners reaching around 20,000 children and 10,000 caregivers. Psychosocial teams, numbering 11 in the West Bank and 5 in Gaza, conducted group counselling sessions, individual counselling, emergency interventions, non-formal education and peer-to-peer counselling. In East Jerusalem and Area C, emergency teams provided support to communities on both sides of the barrier. UNICEF continued to support 20 family centres in Gaza, benefiting more than 80,000 children through a range of protection services.

53. UNICEF continued to lead an inter-agency working group for the monitoring and response mechanism on grave violations against children in Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territory, in accordance with Security Council resolutions 1612 (2005) and 1882 (2009). In partnership with a coalition of Israeli, Palestinian and international organizations, UNICEF supported the development of a monitoring and reporting database to analyse trends and inform advocacy, response and

prevention strategies. The database included violations specific to the socio-political context in the Territory.

54. UNICEF, UNDP and UNFPA supported the Palestinian Ministry of Youth and Sports in developing the Cross-Sector National Strategy for Youth (2011-2013). The strategy will be the basis of a national action plan for youth in 2011. UNICEF supported the development of a planning and monitoring system at the Ministry that includes a database of existing youth centres and youth services. UNICEF continued to support 100 community-based organizations offering quality adolescent-friendly activities to about 65,000 boys and girls through after-school activities including sports, drama and life-skills education. In June 2010, UNFPA launched a project to increase Palestinian youth participation in early recovery, improve their prospects for employment and reduce their social and economic marginalization. By the end of 2010, the project had reached 518 youths (49 per cent females). A second phase was planned for 2011-2012.

55. The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime supported the general administration of reform and rehabilitation centres to strengthen the management, operation and oversight of civil prisons administered by the Palestinian Authority. The Office and the centres developed general and specialized prison staff training, strengthened information management systems, developed pilot vocational training programmes for inmates, and improved prison health. Assistance focused on compliance with the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners. The technical assistance provided in those areas was designed as an initial step towards achieving sustainable reform and development of the civil prison service in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, and with a view to establishing a firm foundation for longer-term reform within the Palestinian criminal justice sector as a whole.

56. In May 2010, ILO supported the establishment of a legal clinic to assist Palestinian workers in Israel with regard to their rights and compensation.

57. Within the framework of the joint United Nations programme on gender equality and women's empowerment, supported by the UNDP-Spain Millennium Development Goals Achievement Fund, ILO assisted in the establishment of a national women's employment committee that focuses primarily on creating a positive environment by reforming discriminatory laws and planning for gender-sensitive employment in order to increase the influence of gender advocates and workers' and employers' organizations in decision-making and planning processes. The committee also assists the Palestinian Ministry of Labour and social partners in implementing specific measures to promote women's employment and their protection in the workplace.

Environment

58. The World Bank continued to contribute to the development of a sustainable institutional structure for the water and wastewater sector in Gaza, including through strengthening the regulatory and institutional capacity of the Palestinian Water Authority. The World Bank completed the rehabilitation of a sewage pumping station in the Beit Lahia area of northern Gaza and the construction of a new wastewater treatment plant was under way. When completed in 2013, the facility will benefit more than 300,000 people and irrigate up to 1,500 hectares of land adjacent to the plant.

59. UNDP continued to support the capacity-building of relevant ministries and civil society organizations to adapt to climate change challenges in the short and long term and to integrate climate change coping mechanisms in the Palestinian National Development Plan 2011-2013.

60. The ongoing Southern West Bank Solid Waste Management Project of the World Bank, which will benefit approximately 600,000 people in the Bethlehem and Hebron governorates, was due to enter the construction phase in June 2011. New landfill plans for the project, which is located in Area C, were approved during the reporting period and a construction permit was expected.

B. United Nations system emergency assistance

61. The 2011 Consolidated Appeals Process for the Occupied Palestinian Territory sought $575 million for 213 projects, including 147 from local and international non-governmental organizations and 66 from United Nations agencies. It focuses on bringing humanitarian assistance and providing protection to the most vulnerable populations in Gaza, Area C and East Jerusalem.

Emergency food support

62. The World Food Programme (WFP) supported about 800,000 vulnerable and food-insecure non-refugee Palestinians, including about 486,000 in the West Bank and 313,000 in Gaza. UNRWA provided emergency food aid to about 650,000 refugees in Gaza and 186,173 individuals in the West Bank. The joint assistance programme between UNRWA and WFP for 36,000 refugee and non-refugee Bedouin herders in the West Bank resulted in food insecurity in the group dropping from 79 per cent to 55 per cent.

63. The WFP urban voucher project in the West Bank assisted 6,000 vulnerable households during the reporting period, providing a financial stimulus to the local economy. A similar project in Gaza targeted 15,000 beneficiaries and enabled products valuing $2,504,500 to be purchased since its launch in 2009. In 2010, the voucher programme in the West Bank injected $2,836,000 into the local economy.

Emergency income generation

64. UNRWA provided temporary work opportunities to 111,853 beneficiaries to alleviate the impact of high unemployment and poverty rates, creating more than 5.3 million days of employment. UNRWA also provided more than $1 million in cash assistance to 112,180 individuals. At the start of the school year, UNRWA provided NIS 100 to 212,371 students in both elementary and preparatory schools, for a total of more than $5.8 million. In addition, UNDP provided income-generation activities to more than 6,000 families through economic empowerment and microfinance projects.

Emergency health support

65. WHO led the process of defining emergency health sector standards and helped in standardizing mobile clinic services and compiling a mobile clinic database. It also developed a system for monitoring emergency aid services to the

Palestinian population of East Jerusalem and helped to address restrictions on access to East Jerusalem hospitals.

66. Under WHO leadership, the United Nations and partners developed a health and nutrition sector response plan that aims at improving access to essential health services to the Palestinians residing in the West Bank and Gaza. The plan formed a basis for the health section of the common humanitarian action plan and provided a framework for development and selection of individual health and nutrition cluster partner projects for the Consolidated Appeal for 2011.

67. WHO helped to fill the gaps in pharmaceutical supplies and continued to help in handling the large volume of medical supplies donated to Gaza, which entailed renting additional warehouses and assisting in sorting, registering, storing and delivering medical supplies and in disposing of expired or unusable medicines. With funds from the Government of Italy, WHO provided urgently needed medical equipment, spare parts and technical assistance to maintain, repair and improve existing equipment.

Emergency water and sanitation support

68. The UNICEF-led cluster on water, sanitation and hygiene maintained coordination among cluster partners, highlighted gaps and vulnerabilities through a harmonized database, enhanced advocacy concerning crucial issues and strengthened cluster partner capacity through trainings and workshops.

69. Support from UNICEF for emergency water, sanitation and hygiene benefited about 200,000 people (including 175,000 children). UNICEF provided tankered water to 12,351 people in south Hebron and about 90,000 children in 90 schools in Gaza. UNICEF supported repairs of water networks and pumps in order to improve access to safe drinking water for 36,000 people. UNICEF rehabilitated sewage networks and pumps, providing adequate sanitation for about 4,200 people. A total of 34 cisterns were cleaned and disinfected and the awareness of local communities was raised on safe water handling and hygiene. In collaboration with the Palestinian Authority Ministry of Education, UNICEF supported the construction and rehabilitation of water, sanitation and hygiene facilities in 59 schools, providing access to safe water, sanitation and hygiene facilities for about 40,000 children and more than 700 teachers (around 50 per cent of whom were girls and women). Hygiene promotion activities benefited 16,750 students and 525 teachers.

Emergency agriculture support

70. FAO, in collaboration with the International Committee of the Red Cross and non-governmental organizations, led and coordinated a response to a major pest outbreak on tomato fields that affected more than 2,000 households in the Gaza Strip. FAO provided land reclamation and livelihoods assistance packages to 656 farming households that lost their livelihoods during operation "Cast Lead".

71. FAO also monitored vulnerability of small-scale farmers and herders in the Occupied Palestinian Territory to climatic, economic and political shocks. Developed in collaboration with the water, sanitation and hygiene cluster, the monitoring system and response framework was designed to result in a more coordinated humanitarian approach to emergency preparedness and response and advocate for the economic security of the vulnerable communities.

C. United Nations system support to Palestinian institutions

72. The United Nations sought to integrate its support to the building of Palestinian institutions as a matter of priority. It therefore prepared a coordinated package of capacity development programming for which $30.7 million is being sought.

73. The United Nations enhanced the efforts of the Palestinian Authority to collect revenue and accelerate customs clearance procedures. The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) continued to support the modernization of Palestinian customs through training on automated systems. UNCTAD also provided policy and advisory services in trade facilitation and policy, including a detailed study on Palestinian external trade. UNCTAD continued to support the Palestinian private sector through the provision of advisory services to the Palestinian Shippers' Council.

74. UN-Women assisted the Palestinian Ministry of Women's Affairs in developing a cohesive cross-sectoral national gender strategy that forms an integral part of the Palestinian National Development Plan 2011-2013.

75. FAO supported the Ministry of Agriculture in developing a cohesive national strategy for the agricultural development sector, the "shared vision". UN-Women assisted the Palestinian Authority in undertaking a gender analysis of the shared vision to mainstream gender into the 2011-2013 Action Plan. FAO provided technical advice to the Ministry on food safety, which included recommendations for a central veterinary laboratory and the development of a national animal identification and animal product tracking system.

76. Acting under the umbrella of the Mehwar Centre project (see para. 50 above), UN-Women provided technical support to the Palestinian Ministry of Social Affairs towards the establishment of a national social protection system for female victims of violence, adopting international human rights standards. UNICEF support to the Ministry included finalization of a national strategy and action plan based on the amended "Child Law" and the piloting of a non-violence in school policy in 93 schools in the West Bank and 20 schools in Gaza.

77. UNFPA trained Palestinian Authority ministries on developing social indicators and on the use of data in national planning. UNICEF and UNFPA jointly supported the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics in implementing the 2010 national family survey to collect data on child health, women's health, youth and the elderly. UNFPA supported the implementation of the first national migration survey.

78. UNDP worked with the Palestinian Ministry of Justice to develop its institutional capacity and facilitate the improved delivery of justice for the Palestinian people. Focusing on legislative drafting, administration of justice and legal aid, the programme aimed at strengthening the Ministry's technical and operational capacity. UNDP established a working group comprising Palestinian government officials, civil society representatives and criminal law experts from the Arab world to provide advice on the development of a penal code. UNDP also introduced new courthouse case management software.

79. ILO technically supported the development of a labour inspection and social dialogue strategy, including outlining the main principles for its implementation.

The initiative was complemented with a comprehensive capacity-building programme for employers' and workers' organizations.

80. The World Bank continued to provide support to improve fiscal planning and management at the national and municipal levels.

D. Private sector development

81. UNRWA financed 12,000 loans valued at $19.73 million for Palestinian microenterprises and households. While the West Bank portfolio grew by 20 per cent (9,500 loans valued at $16.06 million), credit outreach in Gaza shrunk to 2,400 loans valued at just $3.67 million owing to the closure. Despite the situation in Gaza, UNRWA was able to cover 126 per cent of its running costs of $3.69 million from its credit operations.

82. The United Nations was actively engaged in supporting cooperatives and microenterprises and small and medium-sized enterprises. ILO assisted the Palestinian Ministry of National Economy on a strategy paper for establishing a development agency for such enterprises. ILO also supported the national cooperative reform process, including the newly adopted unified cooperative law.

E. Coordination of United Nations assistance

83. Humanitarian and longer-term assistance continued through the humanitarian country team and the United Nations country team. Work through the mechanisms and their associated structures helped to ensure programming coherence and greater alignment with the Palestinian Authority, including with the Palestinian National Development Plan 2011-2013. Relations with all actors and the donor community also improved, helping to ensure coordination with the broader aid community, joint advocacy positions and reduced duplications.

IV. Donor response to the crisis

Budgetary and fiscal support

84. In 2010, donors provided about $1.2 billion towards direct budget support of the Palestinian Authority. The budgetary external financing requirement for 2011 was estimated at $1 billion, down more than 16 per cent from 2010, reflecting the improved capacity of the Palestinian Authority to collect local revenue. A total of $200 million was received, and $500 million pledged for 2011. Donor support remains critical for addressing the Palestinian Authority budget shortfall of roughly $300 million.

Donor coordination

85. The local aid coordination structure continued to serve as a key forum for discussing and providing input to new sector strategies and the Palestinian National Development Plan 2011-2013. The coordination of humanitarian advocacy and information, led by the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, also continued during the reporting period.

86. Two meetings of the Ad Hoc Liaison Committee were held during the reporting period. The Joint Liaison Committee, a tripartite coordination mechanism comprising the Government of Israel, the Palestinian Authority and representatives of the international community, also met twice in the period.

V. Unmet needs

87. The 2010 Consolidated Appeals Process called for $559 million for 236 humanitarian and early-recovery projects in the areas of food security, agriculture, protection, education, health, water and sanitation, and coordination and support services. As of 31 December, funding stood at 50 per cent. The 2011 Consolidated Appeals Process requests $576 million for critical humanitarian activities. As of 1 March, only 7 per cent of the requested funds had been pledged or received. The low response rate, against the backdrop of low funding in 2010, threatens the ability of United Nations agencies and their partners to provide critical assistance to Palestinian people. Additional support is also urgently needed for the UNRWA core budget, which faces a potential shortfall of $53 million for 2011.

88. United Nations agencies continued to assist vulnerable Palestinians in Area C, where access to education, water and health services remained extremely constrained. Additional measures to facilitate Palestinian use of land and resources and the provision of basic services in Area C were critical in the following year.

VI. Challenges

89. In the West Bank, despite the easing of some obstacles, movement and access continued to be restricted, as did the planning and permits process in Area C, while settlement expansion and demolitions of houses and livelihood assets have accelerated since September 2010.

90. Despite a number of positive developments in Gaza, the main features of the crisis remained unaddressed, including recurring violence by militants and Israeli military actions, continued closure, the lack of Palestinian unity within the framework of the Palestinian Authority and the commitments of the PLO. A further steady flow of approvals for United Nations work involving "dual-use" materials will be needed, particularly in the areas of housing, education, health, energy and water and sanitation. Donors that pledged funding at the International Conference in Support of the Palestinian Economy for the Reconstruction of Gaza, held in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt, in 2009, were encouraged to seek avenues for expenditure.

91. The Palestinian Authority continued to reduce its dependence on external donor assistance and had halved its reliance on donor assistance since the International Donors' Conference for the Palestinian State, held in Paris in 2007. As a result, the Palestinian Authority deficit for recurrent spending, which is financed by donors, is expected to decline to less than $1 billion in the 2011 budget. Continued and predictable support to the Palestinian Authority budget to finance the deficit was essential in order to ensure stability and support reform efforts.

VII. Conclusions

92. The operational context for the United Nations in the reporting period improved. Despite economic growth registered across the Occupied Palestinian Territory, which was prompted by Palestinian and Israeli efforts, the overall socio-economic and political situation in the Territory remained challenging. Major challenges included high unemployment and food insecurity, the rise in violent attacks and casualties, and the continued closure and restrictions on the movement of people and goods. The United Nations will continue to work towards the realization of a just, lasting and comprehensive peace in the Middle East on the basis of Security Council resolutions 242 (1967), 338 (1973), 1397 (2002), 1515 (2003), 1850 (2008) and 1860 (2009), an end to the occupation that began in 1967 and the establishment of a sovereign, democratic, viable and contiguous Palestinian State, existing side by side in peace with a secure Israel.